Ethan’s 2010 Regional Planning Bibliography

Aley, Ginette  2008  “Dwelling within the Place Worth Seeking”  in Timothy R. Mahoney and Wendy J. Katz, eds.  2008  Regionalism and the Humanities  Lincoln, NB: University of Nebraska Press

“The term region is perhaps most effective when it is employed, as in this analysis, simply as a cohesive device. Rather than wrangling over boundaries, such an idea of region resembles a transparent, open-ended “container” that allows the various pieces to breathe and to be seen, like a glass salad bowl. The container is there and clearly holds the stories together, while also offering different vantage points and perspectives. But it need not be anything more than that. What fills its capacity, or what is inside, is the most intriguing and satisfying part of it.” (106)


Planning and regional planning almost eliminated during Thatcher years, revived in 1991 with Planning and Compensation Act, led to re-establishment of government’s commitment to providing Regional Planning Guidance (RPG) nationwide, narrowly focused on land use with little public input but has led to greater intergovernmental collaboration… “… there are several reasons why the next few years could herald more radical change involving new preparation procedures and the emergence of broader regional development strategies. First, it has become increasingly clear that many current planning and environmental concerns such as the promotion of sustainable development involve considerations which clearly cross existing administrative boundaries.” (iv)… goes on to mention proposed consolidation of governmental units and weakening of strategic planning at county level, requiring new regional planning, and launch of new integrated regional offices for national departments… “Finally, of increasing importance is the European dimension which is reinforcing the domestic pressures. European Union programmes for aiding disadvantaged areas already bypass nation states and operate at a regional level.” (v)

Baker, Mark, Iain Deas, and Cecilia Wong  1999  “Obscure Ritual or Administrative Luxury? Integrating Strategic Planning and Regional Development”   PDF retrieved online,  February 2, 2010

Regional planning in Britain began as means for mobilizing labor and materials in 1st and 2nd world wars, ad-hoc regionalism in post-war years, 1947 Town and Country Planning Act created impetus for local planning to which regional planning was subordinate, 1960s “partial reawakening” of interest in regional planning and development linked to regional problems of persistent unemployment and economic stagnation, aim was to redistribute industrial production, regional development plans by mid-1970s but no means for implementation… observations:
- Regional institution building occurred in periods of distress (war, reconstruction) and areas of distress (notably the NE of England)
- Little real change in governance structures in response to regional planning, mostly focused on coordination of expenditures, weak
- Regional initiatives have short lifespans
- Largely a public sector activity
- Mostly focused on economic concerns, “balanced development” but subordinate to economic growth

Return to regional planning in Thatcher years (1990s) due to environmental concerns in “the more affluent Tory shires over the inexorable spread of new housing development, paradoxically coupled with fears from business/property interests that a lack of strategizing/regional land use co-ordination might result in insufficient provision of land for future development as smaller district councils retreated into ‘nimbyism’….“ (9)

…government issued Regional Planning Guidance (RPG) for all eight English regions by May 1996…. Evolved into separate tracks for regional economic planning and regional planning for sustainability, competing routes for regional strategizing

**Barth, Thomas 2001 “The Role of Ad Hoc Regional Alliances in Managing Growth” Public Works Management Policy 6(2):114-125**

Two questions: Why are ad hoc regional alliances on the rise? What makes them successful? Three themes from theory underlying why ad hoc regional alliances might be central to effective governance in the future:
- Shared power and uncentralization…no one in charge versus delegation of power via decentralization…. Rather than rules from the top they “flow from a purpose established through open consultation. Organizational members abide by the rules not because they have to but because the rules make sense to them.” (119)
- Networks…”structures of interdependence” where actors rely on each other but can’t compel compliance, important for so-called “wicked problems” that can be divided into smaller pieces
- Leaderless Groups…no formal leader forces participants to take responsibility for process and outcome, decisions by consensus avoids emergence of voting blocks or coalitions

Keys to effectiveness: neutral, credible convener and facilitator; no preordained mission, power structure, or rules; voluntary participation; inclusion of all key decision makers; decisions by consensus; start small and build on success

Ad hoc alliances don’t raise specter of regional entities able to subvert local control…. Regionalism as process rather than as outcome, more attractive, for growth management means coming up with local vision that is adhered to because it is in the interest of stakeholders to do so and not because it is required…. 
A review of regional planning to identify best practices for purposes of conservation, coordination, etc. consistent with earlier themes of national resources planning… “Where judgments are made, explicitly or implicitly, the major bias lies in the obvious predilection of the writer toward the strengthening, expansion, and projection of the national and regional resource planning development activity of that long and evolving line from New Era to New Frontier. … effort is made to carry throughout to carry through some strong threads of basic purpose, principle, and policy in resources conservation and development – durable threads that were formed before the period under direct consideration and that will last long afterward. Her are involved such basic purposes as: the building of the resource base and of economic opportunity; diversity, strength and balance in the economy; environmental improvement; and the general welfare.” (viii)

Planning problem: the material resources of the environment, the people, and the social resources to make the fullest use of the first two
Planning philosophy: use of collective intelligence and foresight to chart direction, order, harmony, and progress in public activity related to the human environment.
Regional planning: decentralization of national planning as needed to ensure just and efficient division of “labor” among constituent units
Planning method: “essentially scientific”… survey/analyse/plan

Three decades: 1933-1943, strong national leadership in advancing national, regional, state and local planning; 1943-1953, fragmented and individualistic regional planning; 1953-1963, withdrawal of national leadership in development planning

“….keys to a regional planning effort that will be effective in good measure are: a need and awareness of need for information and plans, appreciation of basic principles of resource development, a willingness to cooperate and to establish some kind of coordinating leadership in regional investigations and planning. When there is a sense of great need, or crisis, planning leadership is looked for, consent given, and participation established quite readily.” (123) …. Sense of crisis from depression in 30s, less pressing later on

PNW planning agency had no implementing role, voluntary involvement on part of State planning agencies, supported by Northwest Regional Council, funded by Rockefeller foundation and organized to create awareness and support for regional planning and development… “That lack of direct connection with development responsibilities has been cited both as a strength and as a weakness – A strength from the standpoint of perspective, objectivity, disinterestedness or freedom from a particular or special interest in development. A weakness in remoteness from reality, through being divorced from actual development and the responsibility, authority, and weight that might go with such a connection.” (125)
Calls for a new era of national resources planning at the regional scale…. In PNW, “The greatest need is for an over-all land use planning – for the establishment of rational patterns of land use according to character, quality and location and to the needs of people in their expanding urban and rural uses. … A major point is that land use planning is something to be carried out in its own right and not merely as an adjunct of water resources or river basin planning. In this respect it has lagged in the region, and nationally, since the combined effort under national resources board leadership in the 1930’s.” (160)

“For the writer, the deepest or most significant conclusion to be drawn from a review of a generation of regional planning is that there is a great need for new concepts and purposes in regional and national planning. A new kind of planning – less narrow and specialized, more comprehensive of resources and community planning, more directly oriented to human life and living – is needed to meet the needs of the next generation. The search for the right kind of planning for our democratic society is more practical than utopian under the foreseeable pressures of explosive population growth and urban and metropolitan concentration that is certain to continue for the next few decades.” (171)

….involved as planner and director of Pacific Northwest Regional Planning Council, worked prior to that for National Resources Planning Board as PNW rep, deeply committed to point of view and approach outlined in “Regional Factors in Planning”, chronicles PNW experience from inside including importance of affiliated by outside orgs


Collaborative planning “as an inclusive dialogic approach to shaping social space” aligned with postmodern perspectives on certainty and predictability, multistakeholder governance approaches, networked economies and societies, desire to find new synergy in state/market partnerships …. “At a more universal level, there is an apparent paradox in the promotion of collaborative practice rooted in values of cohesion, solidarity and inclusivity in a world that can be seen as ever more individualist, socially fragmented, competitive, or in other words, uncollaborative.” (283)

Uses ontology, epistemology, ideology, and methodology as four lenses to describe and analyze collaborative planning, both in theory and in practice via case…case study in Northern Ireland because if it works there, can work anywhere

Collaborative planning based on relational understanding of space: context matters a lot, object of planning must be treated as component of much larger and complex system, individuals as political actors (versus autonomous consumers), reflection and debate, revelation and understanding relationships, tacit knowledge as a major driver of human decisions and actions … “….collaborative planning is all about disassembling the black
box of our situated-ness and of the constructedness of whatever situation happens to prevail ‘out there’.” (287)

Relies on co-construction of knowledge, knowledge generation a collective learning process incorporating negotiation, framing and reframing, values acknowledged and discussed, public good revealed and agreed on through dialog, democracy and sustainable development valued by collaborative planners, policy evolved from face to face interaction and is therefore created by the participants rather then delivered to them, conflict viewed as useful creative tension …. “…the practice of collaborative planning requires more than just thorough mediation; it requires arenas for non-adversarial discourse where value systems can be articulate, where shared strategic conviction can grow, where conflicts are re-framed in a less antagonistic manner and where the discourse shifts from the competitive bargaining of fixed interests to a mode of negotiative problem definition and consensus-building.” (290)

Role of planners changes….rather than wise, technocratic leaders now called on to act as facilitator, intermediary, broker, “critical friend” (Forester 1996)… not an advocate planner as role is to create forum where “non-hostile discourse among equals” can take place…. However, depends on trust and developing trust not always clear nor is goal/requirement for “non-hostile” environment where animosities get put aside on behalf of larger goals necessarily realistic

“…collaborative planning’s prioritization of consensus invariably produces this noncommittal (to change), since its failure to accommodate a more candid agonistic discourse makes it vulnerable to euphemism, surface agreement and equivocation.” (305)

“Collaborative planning implies a shift from ‘competitive interest bargaining’ to ‘negotiative consensus building’. But, such well-intentioned prescription for governance, rooted in civic solidarity, also makes assumptions difficult to sustain empirically, including: the existence of extensive civic capacity to support the inclusivity of an informed public; the decisive role of rationality in dispute arbitration; and, perhaps most tellingly, the willingness of the powerful to participate in these open discourses when more effective and discreet channels are available. Indeed, the case study highlights the humble power of rationality when confronted with the rationale of power.” (306)

“…instead of planners being in the business of advocacy and knowledge transfer, they can be in the business of knowledge exchange within the framework of smart pluralism, whereby each faction learns that its interest can be best advanced through persuasive engagement rather than coercive dominance….. collaborative planners need to appreciate arenas other than the local, even though they might not actually operate a great leverage on external structural constraints. Indeed, we need to guard against the delusion that somehow through local action the global frame will shift (ala butterfly effect). …. Methodologically, the contemporary planner would need to be not only gifted in facilitation and arbitration for proactive engagement, but also skilled in semiotics and
hermeneutics for analysis. Speaking realistically, planning education has yet to catch up with this ambitious remit.” (308)

**Brooks, Evelyn C. and Lee M. Brooks** 1933 “Five Years of “Planning” Literature” *Social Forces* 11(3):430-465

Deals with titles from 1927-1932, rapid rise of publications in planning and especially regional planning, of 927 titles reviewed 237 dealt with regional planning (119 with national planning), mentions Mumford, MacKaye, and RPA plan for NY and region … “Regionalism is an all-embracing word. The Europeans, especially the English, are quite familiar with the concept … By 1930 America was talking it rather freely, so much so that several conferences were held, not the least of these being the Round Table on Regionalism held at the University of Virginia in 1931. It is impossible to consider regional planning apart from city planning and the details of communication, highways, airways, traffic, zoning, and the like. It also includes the whole problem of beautification in metropolitan and rural areas where the assault on ugliness and waste is gathering momentum.” (434)

“Is there any clear evidence that regional planning is a going concern rather than a mere academic occupation?” (435)... provides numerous examples of actual plans to show that it is a real thing, also identified trend toward metropolitan planning in US and elsewhere as “quite clear” (436)

“While regional planning in America had its birth in efforts to conserve and improve country life, the present tendency is toward seeing the region whole. ….The present-day interpretation of land utilization is to be found in programs for wiser use of nonproductive or poorly productive land. The lineal descendant of the Conservation Movement, so vocal in the early 1900’s, appears in the concept of developed natural resources at the heart of the region.” (437)

“Patrick Geddes has pointed out that mankind is moving from nationalism and imperialism to regional and civic developments, – consider the League of Nations, disarmament conferences, and regional surveys. … The trend towards regionalism is observable but the ecological unit varies widely from the city neighborhood to a sizeable geographic area.” (439)

“Several critics have referred to the flow of nonsense that has been spreading abroad in recent years under the guise of planning. Some of it is palpably propaganda of vested interests; some of it is clearly controversial. Very much of it is vaguely conceived and heavily wishful. The birth and mortality rates of “plans” are beyond the present powers of a sociological actuary. But more important than all this is that scientific method and orderly planning have emerged at all. As the President’s Research Committee on Social Trends has pointed out: “The best that any group of economic planners can do with the data now at hand is to lay plans for making plans.” Were it not that the material here presented evinces a sincerity consonant with the seriousness of the present collapse, the
future historian might suspect our planners and technocrats of playing amid the jagged fragments, of indulging in an academic fad, a sort of socio-politico-economic jig-saw puzzle. But theirs is an awful earnestness.” (441)


“There is a conventional wisdom that the term “American regional planning” is something of an oxymoron: the Jeffersonian tradition of home rule and small-scale local government precludes any meaningful system of regional planning and governance, save the exceptions (such as Portland) that prove the rule.” (1)

“We explore a third path (note: between pure regionalism and regional coordination): selectively retain the larger ambitions of regionalism by unpacking the practice of “regional planning” into widely divergent institutional structures, political traditions, and planning outcomes. The challenge is to locate greater opportunities for regionalism by identifying those regional efforts (both governmental and non-governmental institutions) that successfully embody the more ambitious and transformative goals of regionalism.” (1)

two standard justifications for regionalism are efficiency and equity….. but region also posited as more useful scale with respect to economy, though claims of “getting the scale right” as guarantee of harmonious and effective planning are overblown… coordination a consistent appealing theme… also, regional planning held out as an ideal because “untarnished by experience” compared to city planning… “Regional planning seems to arise from several substantive goals: administrative efficiency due to inter-municipal coordination; regional economic competitiveness; protection of the region ecosystem (its water, land, and air); greater social equality and justice (education, labor markets, social services, housing) between urban and suburban residents.” (5)

administrative region, business/growth region, ecoregion, social region… scale of region and power of planning/implementing organization are key differences in planning for these different purposes

Concludes: results of regionalism depends on motivation(s) pursued; easiest forms of regionalism are not necessarily conducive to progressive or equitable outcomes; regionalism should not be viewed as an end in itself as more regionalism does not necessarily yield better outcomes; there is a gap between existing regional planning, largely motivated by mutual self-interest and preserving the status quo, and regional idealism… bridging the gap either by making regionalism more than it currently is or finding other vehicles to accomplish progressive goals (15)

Reviews transboundary international biodiversity planning and management efforts… compares International Sonoran Desert Alliance (ISDA) with Yellowstone to Yukon Biodiversity Strategy (Y2Y)…. Looks at national boundaries as “territories of chance” as compared with large scale habitats which predate and operate apart from national territorial space… issue is how to “rise above” these territories of chance to effectively address landscape-scale issues of biodiversity straddling national borders

Both efforts began with mapping (identifying the region) and identifying and enlisting stakeholders (the community) that shared a belief in vision for the importance of the landscape in question… were they effective? Points to engagement of alliance organizations in civil society between state and nation, found that “In short, ISDA and Y2Y were engaged in a regional version of what political theoretician Paul Wapner has called “world civic politics,” in which environmental NGOs go beyond traditional lobbying efforts to work “underneath, above, and around the state to bring about widespread change.” (Wapner 1996 9).” (236)


“By progressive, we mean regional policies that (1) produce effective economic growth strategies while promoting equity and (2) build an institutional framework that supports civic participation and representation….To engage this challenge, we use the lens of “critical regionalism” to identify two types of regionalism in contemporary practice and discuss how these regionalisms contribute to an emerging progressive regional agenda. We define these regionalisms as investment regionalism (IR) and distributive regionalism (DR)…” (341) ….here investment refers to an economic development perspective, distributive to a community development perspective, and progressive to a sustainable development perspective

“The critical regionalist approach is embedded in a discourse that recognizes regional path dependencies, the importance of specialized regional labor markets, and the significance of power relations in local firm and institutional networks…” (343)


Cities and their sprawl are the principle contributors to climate change, and cities must be the places where solutions are found…. Seven rules for “sustainable, low-carbon communities:

1) Restore the streetcar city.
2) Design an interconnected street system.
3) Locate commercial services, frequent transit, and schools within a five-minute walk.
4) Locate good jobs close to affordable homes.
5) Provide a diversity of housing types.
6) Create a linked system of natural areas and parks.
7) Invest in lighter, greener, cheaper, and smarter infrastructure.

These principles represent the elements of a whole. Achieving one without the others – particularly if it is at the expense of the others – will be of limited value and could be counterproductive.” (14)

…sites are to regions as cells are to bodies…

Condon, Patrick and Jackie Teed, eds. 2006  *Sustainability by Design: A Vision for a Region of 4 Million*  Vancouver, BC:The Design Centre for Sustainability, The University of British Columbia

Challenge: to transform one of world’s most livable regions into a sustainable region under pressure from rapid population growth… sustainability by design is the vehicle, predicated on notion that neighborhood scale solutions multiplied will add up to sustainable region, individual neighborhoods like cells of body, this pub provides first pictures of what a sustainable region would look like based on these principles, developed via neighborhood charrettes and a region-wide charrette, six principles for sustainable communities: good and plentiful jobs close to home, different housing types, mixed use corridors, five minute walking distance to services, access to natural areas and parks, lighter/greener/cheaper/smarter infrastructure

Counsell, Dave and Graham Haughton 2006  “Sustainable development in regional planning: The search for new tools and renewed legitimacy”  *Geoforum* 37:921-931

Sustainability now part of every planning initiative, has given planners new confidence, but poorly defined if defined at all… “sustainability appraisal” a means for assessing what sustainable development actually is in practice and planning

UK gov defined sustainable development  as “ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come”, would do so through integration of efforts to achieve four policy objectives: social progress which recognizes the needs of everyone, effective protection of the environment, prudent use of natural resources, maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth … proved difficult to implement in practice and was replaced, integration hard to show

Sustainability appraisal a review process like EIS or EA… “Sustainability appraisal has perhaps succeeded more in highlighting the political nature of planning decisions, rather
than de-politicising decisions through its supposed objectivity. ….sustainability appraisal may have helped flush tensions out and place them in the political arena, but this does not necessarily appear to have made things any easier for the political process.” (928)

Contrasts technical/rational planning approach with communicative theory, inherent tensions for each… “So whilst sustainability appraisal has helped to achieve the planning system’s goal of greater transparency and participation, the failure to generate an improved capacity to govern economic, social, and environmental conflicts may yet undermine this achievement.” (930)


Sprawl the leading land use concern in US, three forms: urban/suburban pushing into countryside at densities of 1500 or more per square mile, commercial strip sprawl along arterials, low density scattered sprawl at densities of 500-1500 people per square mile …sprawl has profound impacts but is not sustainable… responses include statewide land use planning in states like Oregon, metropolitan growth management in places like Portland, and Smart Growth in places like Maryland…. “The Maryland smart growth effort shows that several programmes must be at work at the same time. State investment policy is the centerpiece, but local and regional planning and zoning are equally important, both to identify places where growth should go and to protect farmland from development. … Ultimately, for smart growth to succeed, collaborative planning must work smoothly in a regional framework involving the state, counties, cities, and villages.” (276)

Deas, Iain and Alex Lord 2006 “From a New Regionalism to an Unusual Regionalism? The Emergence of Non-standard Regional Spaces and Lessons for the Territorial Reorganisation of the State” Urban Studies 43(10):1847-1877

Rescaling of the state=a fundamental reshaping due to globalization of economy linked to an increase in significance of cities and regions as locus for economic activity (versus the state/nation)… but disagreement over whether and how this is actually occurring, and at what scale there is significance: “To varying extents, they have highlighted the pivotal role played by the globalization of economic activity in driving attempts to bolster different types of regional institution and initiative and, in doing so, enhance ‘regional’ competitive advantage. What is less prominent, however, is any attempt (within the context of these efforts to conceptualise regionalism) to enumerate and interpret the array of territorially contiguous new regional coalitions and institutions – what might be termed ‘unusual regions’ – that have begun to emerge, many of which transcend, and jar against, established territorially bounded bodies at regional and sub-national scales. This paper reports on research to explore a range of attempts to develop new regional forms and considers the degree to which they accord to attempts to conceptualise the shifting territorial structure of the state.” (1848)
EU interplay of “regionalization and Europpeanisation” and addressed in spatial planning, ESDP most “significant step in this process”: “In particular, it sealed a commitment to territorial cohesion and proclaimed the view that the EU’s future economic, social and political development should be based on the development of horizontally integrated geographical territories rather than on vertical sectors….. it’s effect has been to stimulate pioneering actions to begin to develop more meaningful spatial planning provisions within and across member-states and their regions.” (1850)

Has led to proliferation of non-state based regional forms, so-called “unbounded regionalism” of many collaborative arrangements, often competing with each other, many with explicit desire to restructure EU geography itself… these “new regionalist” entities formed to: “grate against existing nation-state boundaries” and contribute to mobility of labor and capital in and among subnational units; reflect that size is critical with respect to international competitiveness, normative value of polycentricity for enabling groups of cities to compete with so-called “world cities”… megaregions as regions of convenience and of strategic value

Might assume that emergence of new regional entities might be due to or arouse conflict with state-based entities but not the case… they emerge as a “political response to a perceived (but questionable) economic necessity… new regional spaces as “aspirational spaces” but not around long enough to know if simply short-term or have staying power: “…the real significance of the new regional spaces may be as a manifestation (even if it only a transient one) of the ideological desire amongst policy actors to reinforce and extent what they perceive to be the imperative to rescale governance.” (1863) … polycentricity not as description of what is, but of what is desired…. New regional units “… in line with the ‘fuzzy regionalism’ – flexibly configured regions of varying shape, in response to changing imperatives over time – which has been identified in the North American context (Foster 2001)….. in contrast to the ‘old’ fixed and bounded regions, new forms of regionalism are associated with a sort of territorial flux in which spaces are rapidly and repeatedly redefined, recreated, and reshuffled, triggered by aspiration and tensions that shift over time.” (1865)

…. BUT, doesn’t really delve into who benefits from this… what makes it worth all the work?


“Many of the issues that make up the current news content of the media have a regional dimension and are perceived as needing a strategic response. …. The origin of this book likes in a gap we perceive. We see, on the one hand, the growing importance of the regional development dimension and the increasing acceptance of the necessity of
strategic planning. On the other hand, we note the paucity of skills and knowledge available to tackle the tasks of strategic planning for regional development.” (xix)

Peter Hall “Evolution of Strategic Planning and Regional Development” pp10-27
regional policy = concerted effort to deal with structural regional disparities that became apparent in the 1930s, largely focused on industrial development, undone in 1980s as industrial sector declined… focus was social equity, not economic efficiency, objective was to lessen disparities in well-being among regions, new impetus with EU directives, has succeeded in channeling public expenditures to growth areas and to the creation of jobs, but job growth not sustained without ongoing public investment
strategic planning = “balancing urban regeneration and planned deconcentration around the major conurbation cities; it is essentially intra-regional (while regional policy is inter-regional) and it has a strong physical planning emphasis, albeit mixed with economic and social objectives.” (p10)… strategic planning “declared dead” by Thatcher government but came back in Mayor’s London Plan of 2002 and GBR Strategic Community strategy of 2003… three eras… post-war 1940s (Abercrombie’s Greater London Plan, new towns), 1960s (South East Planning Council, unforeseen population growth in greater London), and now 2000s

Mark Tewdwr-Jones and Philip Allmendinger 2007 “Regional Institutions, Governance, and the Planning System” pp 28-39 … in Dimitriou and Thompson Planning is “deeply implicated in the re-territorialisation of the British State, and a number of related significant issues and areas of interest arise from such changes, including:

■ the need and opportunity to integrate spatial development through new regional strategies, including activities such as economic development, transport, sustainable development, energy, water and biodiversity;
■ the scope for and implications of policy divergence and inter-regional rivalry;
■ the tension between regional autonomy and national interest, including wider questions concerning the balance between the two and the role of the centre;
■ the relationship between the evolving new regionalist agenda and existing institutions, processes, and stakeholders; and
■ the role and extent of “region building” and the ways in which the regions is discursively constructed, being politically, socially and symbolically shaped in various ways.

The objective of this spatial transformation is to widen the trajectory of planning, or spatial strategy making, in the modernization and governance agendas at both the regional level and the local level within the UK. Although this is resulting in new participatory process and greater contestation on the form and trajectory of regional and local spatial plan making, it is nevertheless occurring within a planning legislative framework that remains firmly rooted within the agenda of and context provided by the central and local government state and within professional planning duties.” (35-36)

Four “motifs” in the book:
“(1) urban regions, rather than cities or all-built metropolitan areas, are the key big objects today and in our future; (2) natural systems, or simply nature, and human uses of them in an urban region are of major importance; (3) all regional characteristics are changing, driven by growing populations, more cities, and diverse urbanization patterns; (4) using principles and a rich array of existing solutions, society can significantly improve every distinctive urban region.” (xviii)

“Think Globally, Plan Regionally, and then Act Locally.” (xviii)

urban region boundary determined by flows between central city and surrounding region. Vaguely bounded but comes to an end, can’t be observed directly…. Regions defined by macroclimate and cultural-social patterns (11)…. “A region is larger and inherently more stable than a landscape within it (Forman 1995). Therefore planning a region as a sustainable environment or place provides a higher probability of achieving success.” (14)… really?
…. Odd mix of things. Identifies good, bad, and promising patterns.


Civil unrest in 1967, some places recovered well, some not so well, why the differences? Possible sources for resilience: economic diversification, government structure and interrelations, state policy, political mode (“… collaborative regional entity-centered approach of Portland, the local government-centered approach of Philadelphia, or the relatively laissez-faire and corporate-centered approach of Houston…”), thick civic networks, leadership

Foster, Kathryn A. and William R. Barnes  2009 “Reframing Regional Governance for Research and Practice” Paper presented at 2009 ACSP Annual Conference, Crystal City, Virginia, from the Author

Debate over forms of regional governance has gone as far as it can, focus on form is not useful or at least is not advancing

Defines regional governance as: “deliberate efforts at collective action in environments of multiple governmental jurisdictions. By this definition, regional governance:

- Crosses borders, by definition jurisdictional, and also often sectoral and functional
- Is almost always a problem-solving or goal-seeking activity
- Encompasses, but is not limited to, the institutional “tools” that are used to establish and implement regional action
- Is not a single jurisdiction that encompasses an entire region. As a single jurisdiction, local governance would be definition not cross jurisdictional

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boundaries. Because no such entity exists in the United States, we exclude this option as a “straw man” and a distraction in the regional governance discussion.

Is not “no government” or a “market” governance because that system, if it exists somewhere, would not be intentional or deliberate action. Here again, no such entity exists in the United States.” (3)

Five dimensions used to assess the nature of regional governance: suitability of coalition (breadth of member interests and roles); effectiveness of agenda framing; internal capacity of coalition (resources and authority for action); external capacity of coalition (influence); implementation experience (record at region scale). Governance varies between regions, and within regions over time and among issues… three shapers: functional/technical attributes of policy area, external influences, political/cultural habits

Gerckens, Lawrence C. 2000 “Ten Failures that Shaped the 20th Century American City” Planning Commissioners Journal, number 38, spring

1) The demise of community-oriented design and development.
2) The lost vision of regional planning… MacKaye and Geddis focused on an ecological vision that tried to avoid negative consequences on natural systems and rural communities of unfettered metropolitan growth and expansion, “Regional Plan of New York and Environs” as departure that shifted focus away from ecological vision and towards regional planning as means for facilitating growth and expansion.
3) The fragmented nature of metropolitan governance… Standing in way of regional solutions.
4) The unfilled promise of high tech housing
5) The landscape of racial and economic segregation
6) Disinvestment in public transit
7) Defaulting on the promise of public housing
8) Abandonment of quest for a “great society”
9) Narrowing the mission of HUD
10) Comprehensive planning constrained

Gerckens, Lawrence C. 2000 “Ten Successes that Shaped the 20th Century American City” Planning Commissioners Journal, number 38, spring

1) Provision of pure water and effective sewage treatment
2) The isolation of dangerous and disharmonious land uses
3) The abolition of corrupt “boss” governments
4) Development of integrated roadway systems
5) The electrification of cities and regions
6) The advent of universal communications
7) The widespread extension of home ownership
8) The realization of metropolitan and regional park systems…preservation of natural areas while providing needed recreational facilities
9) The control of land subdivision
10) The environmental movement


“There is an urgent need to investigate how sustainable development can be implemented in an urban context by metropolitan administrations and the planning methods that can be adopted. …. Despite limitation to their resources and powers, therefore, metropolitan authorities can and should play a central role in integrating environmental and economic urban policies.” (107)


Change from conservatives to Labor in UK in 1997 put regions and regionalism back on the agenda, Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) created in each of 9 English regions, sustainable development part of the charge: “Sustainable development requires the integration of economic and environmental decision making; a concern for inter and intra-generational equity; and greater democratic involvement in decision making…. Taken together these requirements represent a considerable challenge to the organization of economic activity as it currently exists.” (366) … RDAs to advance these principles and changes, five objectives: sustainable development, economic development and social and physical regeneration, business support, investment, and competitiveness, enhancing skills, and promoting employment … RDAs as integrators for principles but how this happens not specified, key factor the development of a regional economic strategy but vague about how sustainable development will be incorporated, new regional policy needs to “develop more imaginative responses to regional problems, rather than relying solely upon the same solutions to regional problems developed under Conservative governments and formed by notions of the entrepreneurial state and the mantra of competitiveness.” (368)

Regional planning taking off in early 1970s but didn’t keep going… “Over a period of 10-15 years, from the late 1970s to the start of the 1990s, regional planning was in the doldrums and lost its momentum. … Regional planning suffered from a hostile political and economic climate in many countries; it was partly also its own worst enemy, failing to live up to the high expectations associated with it. However, time change, and regional planning is again back on the academic, professional, and – perhaps most important – political agenda.” (505)

“Regional planning has a vital role to play in confronting the contemporary problems faced by the economically advanced nations.” (505) …. Regional planning as a flexible tool and able to operate over a range of scales, involves many actors

Regional planning for lagging regions in 60s and 70s largely top-down, recessionary 80s brought along more market-oriented approaches… now a more project or firm-oriented approach, shift in strategy from growth to innovation, from centralized/state sponsored to decentralized/regional/community-based, from redistribution among regions to mobilization of resources/ assets within regions…. “Perhaps the most over-riding feature of regional development policies in the 1990s is the shift towards a mix of top-down and bottom-up initiatives.” (514)

“Implicit in much of European Community activity is a recognition of the region, not the country, as the issue, the action space and the partner.” (524)… a Europe of regions

Glasson, John 2004 “Regional Planning and Sustainability – Towards Integration in the UK and EU” Spatium 10:1-11

Regional planning may have a central role for achieving promise and goals of sustainable development … “In this context, regional planning may have a particularly central role to play as the focus for ‘territorial integration’ – between the natural and socio-economic systems within a territory.” (1) …. However, institutional and methodological constraints on regional planning make it difficult to realize this… still good promise but much work remains


Regional planning often squeezed between national and local planning, consequently waxes and wanes, needed more than ever due to increased mobility, links between urban and rural putting them in a common framework, climate change, desire for sustainable development, important role in arriving at “territorial integration” between natural and social-economic systems… about intra-regional planning in the UK with reference to some of the inter-regional forces and planning associated with the EU
Planning=an activity which is indeed focused on the control, steering or management of land use and physical change, but which, as much as or more than ever, has to be set within a comprehensive grasp of spatial changes in society, economy, and environment. …It is a planning obliged to be, normally content to be, partially subservient to the market, but it still aspires to order space in a coherent way. A continuing theme in planning is whether, or in what way the tensions in these two aspiration can be contained and managed. (5)

Bases for defining a region: biophysical, political, social/economic…”The three bases may be conflicting, and in any concrete case pull indifferent directions. Then the only way to decide which to give more weight to will be by referring to the point of the whole exercise – the basic objectives of regional planning…. The primary purpose is deciding on the general distribution of new activities and developments.” (12-13)

Regional planning in UK goes back over 100 years… however, what constituted regional planning has changed during that time…. But regional planning “… has endured because regional issues have endured and require intervention at the regional level.” (20) … two dominant drivers: problems of urban/metro regions arising from population growth, urbanization, and increased mobility; problems of rural and industrial regions arising due to economic restructuring/collapse… five levels of regional planning that have waxed and waned over time:
--EU spatial planning
--UK inter-regional planning (economic and social equity, problems of economic “imbalance” among regions, seeking “regional balance”, forerunner for EU spatial planning)
--UK intra-regional planning (resource allocation with regions or subregions
--Subregional planning
--Structure planning

regional planning a multi-layered process and problem, vertical and horizontal coordination of interests and entities required

International support for regional planning growing as evidenced by: more regional planning overall, more stress on economic competitiveness, more dependence on public/private partnerships, increasing evidence of concern for environment, more transparency in process (289)


Regional planning draws from a wide range of fields making it difficult to define and unclear with respect to its purposes….“Planning means a mental preparation for action.” (7)…. Uses Mackaye’s notion that the objective for regional planning is “the cultivation
of habitability”… “For our time, therefore, it is true that habitability can be considered only as the result of both natural conditions and human effort.” (8) … and habitability involves striking a balance between natural conditions and human needs and actions: In the establishment of this balance lie the tasks of Regional Planning: Its aims are not the realization of any specific objective, the regulation of relationship between human and environmental factors.” (9) … And… “It is obvious that Regional Planning is not an invention of our days, but a practice of old times.” (11)

Regional planning arising from crisis or a desire to “remodel” relationships …. “The idea motivating this kind of planning strives at the coordination of human needs and the special characteristics of man’s material environment, not by blind utilitarian behaviour, but organically, - i.e. in a manner by which man’s specific ways of life foster also life in its environment – in a manner by which man finds the place of a cooperating partner in natures’ land communities and cycles.” (12)

“The contemporary emergency which calls for Regional Planning, manifests itself in many ways, the most prominent being: Vanishing natural resources, and growing population pressure, i.e. – the absence of a favourable balance between society and the natural sources of its sustenance, the amorphization of social and land settlement structures, the hostility between urban and rural areas, the strain of mechanization on living conditions etc. All of these undermine the stability and culture of human existence in city and country alike.” (12)

“The ecological equilibrium, so rudely disturbed in nature and society by contemporary civilization, has to be restored by activities directed by man’s planning intelligence.” (20)

…. Cites both Mackaye and Leopold (A Sand County Almanac)…


“…planning as a general activity is the making of an orderly sequence of action that will lead to the achievement of a stated goal or goals. Its main techniques will be written statements, supplemented as appropriate by statistical projections, mathematical representations, quantified evaluations and diagrams illustrating relationships between different parts of the plan. It may, but need not necessarily, include exact physical blueprints of objects.” (3)

Regional planning… spatial/geographic frame of reference and lens for analysis, or regional planning as applied to lagging regions… “The larger-scale, economic development type of planning can best be called national/regional planning because essentially it relates the development of each region to the progress of the national economy. And the smaller-scale, physical type of planning can conveniently be called regional/local planning because it attempt to relate the whole of an urban region to developments within each local part of it.” (56)
“…what, then is the methodology of planning? How does it seek to resolve such a set of major problems? The answer should surely be: by some variant of the systems approach. … It should be exploratory and instructive.” (228-229) planning should help communities think clearly and logically to resolve problems, examine alternative courses of action and trace probably consequences of each (burdens and benefits, impacts on communities and populations), provide a resource for democratic and informed decisionmaking… not prescriptive, not avoid politics, not claim unique expertise or what is good for people

**Hamilton, David K. and Patricia S. Atkins, eds. 2008** Urban and Regional Policies for Metropolitan Livability New York: M. E. Sharpe

collection of articles reviewing the range of key metropolitan growth management and sustainability challenges

“The metropolitan scale is the elemental scale for working on the nation’s major urban challenges of the twenty-first century. If we move down to the municipal level to handle major challenges, we lose metropolitan area interconnections….If we move up to the state level, we lose the sense of place that provides the motivation and connection for community betterment. Someday, sooner than we may think, the cooperative level for working on the nation’s major urban challenges will migrate to the global arena. For now, we are stuck at the metropolitan level.” (346)


Regional planning fundamental to future place-making, but matters even more because of its ability to return from the political wilderness… needed and sought
### Table 1  Active and less active periods of regional policy and planning in the UK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Institutional Architecture</th>
<th>Themes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pioneering phase, 1920s-1940s</td>
<td>Appointed regional commissioners, central government ministries</td>
<td>Post-blitz plans for rebuilding cities, green belt policy, new town policy, decentralization of the ‘industrial population’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The fallow period, 1950s</td>
<td>Central government ministries and New Town Commission</td>
<td>Implementation of first phase of new towns, Limited application of regional policy tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional revival, 1960s and 1970s</td>
<td>Government ministries, regional industrial development associations, Creation of Regional Planning Councils and Boards (REPCs/REPBs)</td>
<td>Industrial and population relocation, Regional corporatist bodies establishing non-statutory economic and physical strategies, Growing interest in sub-regional planning, Limited funding to regional bodies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The second fallow period, 1980s</td>
<td>Dissolution of REPCs and REPBs (1980), Abolition of metropolitan county councils (1986)</td>
<td>Rapid weakening of regional policy, with regrounding in scope, financing and areal coverage, Growth in localized, short-term, business-led approaches</td>
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### Table 2  Planning’s changing circumstances, 1970–2003

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Era</strong></td>
<td>Late Fordism / Keynesianism</td>
<td>Roll-back neoliberalism</td>
<td>Neostatism / neoliberalism</td>
<td>Third Way neoliberalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Key changes</strong></td>
<td>Questioning of the role of planners as experts, especially on social issues</td>
<td>Land-use focus, supporting economic development</td>
<td>Growing concern with environment and ‘sustainable development’</td>
<td>Integrated approaches to sustainable development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dominant approaches to plan making</strong></td>
<td>Plans based on detailed analysis with lengthy periods of preparation</td>
<td>Market-led – growing emphasis on speed and cutting red tape</td>
<td>Plan-led development, tentative reengagement with strategic planning</td>
<td>Attempts to improve public participation and yet also speed up plan making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Civil society</strong></td>
<td>Critiques of planning as a form of ‘social engineering’</td>
<td>Individuals to be freed from ‘tyranny of bureaucracy’</td>
<td>Consulting with ‘the community’</td>
<td>Engaged with a multiplicity of stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local government role</strong></td>
<td>Lead role in local planning</td>
<td>Part of the problem, being too anti-enterprise</td>
<td>Technical guidance and facilitator of development</td>
<td>Facilitator in widely based collaborative processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Central government approach to regional planning</strong></td>
<td>Dwaird enthusiasm</td>
<td>No enthusiasm</td>
<td>Useful role, if appropriately limited, focused on new housing issue</td>
<td>Key part of the new regional institutional architecture</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regionalism getting more attention, particularly for regional economic development and for growing importance of “multi-level governance”


Story of how her book Collaborative Planning: Shaping Places in Fragmented Societies (Healey, 1997) came to be, reflection on its reception and critics

“…Fainstein argues that planners should give more emphasis to normative concepts of the Just City, and use these as principles for evaluating planning practices. As I developed that project that became Collaborative Planning, I too set out in the direction. But increasingly, as I recognized the significance of the social situatedness of planning endeavours, it became clear to me that concepts of the ‘good’ and the ‘just’ were themselves constructed through relations of knowledge and power. Beyond a certain level of specificity, the meaning of these concepts was both contingent and contested. This meant that the processes of articulating values and the manner in which these might become more embedded in established discourses and practices were important. In other words, substance and process are co-constituted, no separate spheres (Gualini, 2001). In addition, process should not be understood merely as a means to a substantive end. Processes have process outcomes.” (110)

“Thus, the ‘planning’ that I portray in Collaborative Planning is clearly something broader than the practices of regulatory land-use planning…. It is about strategic approaches to the ‘governance of place’. It involves attention to both the qualities of place and of processes, the ‘good city’ and its ‘good governance’ (Healey, 2001), understood in a social constructivist and relational way…. The task of the planning enterprise is to critically interrogate the governance practices that currently exist and to help governance communities concerned with place qualities to develop different approaches where these are seen to be failing. This involves attention to both discourses and practices; to what already exists, what is emerging and what might possibly emerge in a specific context, ….normative precepts should not float away into abstract generalizations, but be grounded in the particularities of specific times and places.” (116)

“Collaborative Planning is a plea for the importance of understanding complexity and diversity, in a way that does not collapse into atomistic analyses of specific episodes and individual achievements, or avoid recognizing the way power consolidates into driving forces that shape situational specificities.” (117)


Interconnections between issues, local, global never before as apparent, need for a better understanding of urban and regional change and the roles for planning and planners in
those processes… puts forth a perspective grounded in institutions and communicative approaches to establishing relationships within the context of institutions, development of a “shared power” approach

Communicative planning theory: recognizes that all forms of knowledge are socially constructed, development and communication of knowledge takes many forms, individual preferences arrived at in social contexts, taken for granted assumptions and processes can be sources for oppression just as the distribution of resources can, participation of all those with a stake is critical, collaborative consensus building rather than competitive bargaining lies at the heart of planning processes, and planning practice can both sustain and challenge social relations….context and practice are not separate but socially constituted together

Note that institutionalist theory posits that individual identities are socially constructed, not separately forming preferences and making their way… consequently, values and attitudes are framed by social interaction, and therefore engagement is critically important for discovering what those values and attitudes are and what they mean… collaborative planning grounded in webs or networks of relationships in which we live our lives, nodes are common spaces (household, community, landscape)

Spatial and environmental planning is therefore “link-making-work”, should be judged based on whether objectives of planning met, social and intellectual capital generated through creation of new links, all stakeholders engaged… “Spatial planning efforts should therefore be judged by the qualities of process, whether they build up relations between stakeholders in urban region space, and whether the relations enable trust and understanding to flow among the stakeholders and generate sufficient support for policies and strategies to enable these to be relevant to the material opportunities available and the cultural values of those involved, and have the capacity to endure over time.” (71)

Spatial and environmental planning is a social process and therefore deeply political … made more so as dynamics of urban regions changing dramatically: local neighborhoods are replaced by more decentralized and dispersed territories of daily activity, economic relations change with globalization, industrial base changes, population ages and becomes more diverse, need for environmental management and sustainable development practices becomes apparent

Government and governance frame planning, planning as a “policy driven approach to the practice of governance which is both knowledge-rich and inclusionary” (241)… planning as “strategic consensus-building through inclusionary argumentation” (248)… institutionalist communicative approach: should recognize range and variety of stakeholders, should acknowledge that much of the work of governance occurs outside of formal government, should open up opportunities for local initiative and informal invention, should acknowledge that inclusion brings with it complex politics, should be continually and openly accountable… planning a process of struggle and dialog
Regional planning has long been associated with the work of American planners; regional planning predates the so-called “birth” of American city planning in 1909… “… it would be difficult to talk about the profession and practice without reference to region.” (296) … though region a consistent theme in practice, planning history has taken up regions only episodically… “. .. when they do write about regions and regionalism they present it as a product of events and phenomena that are unique to a particular time period.” (296)

“When they do study the history of regionalism and regional planning, practitioners, historians, and social scientists assign the region to particular moments, often interpreted as an exception or a golden era. When doing so, practitioners and social scientists (and to a lesser extent historians) tend to construct tidy chronologies in which one manner of regional planning begets another in a progressive or dialectical process.” (297)

“As critical is the strong tendency among those who do write histories of regional planning to credit design professionals with vision and agency, it is ecologists, urban designers, experts in economic development, and their clients who possess the capacity and means to think and act regionally.” (297)

planning historians look to geography and regional economics for theory when it comes to regions, regionalism, regional planning…. By not acknowledging regions and paying attention to regional practice, often because Hise believes that region is so pervasive in planning as to be taken for granted, scholars and practitioners may be overlooking key aspects of the field that need dialog and reflection


Evaluation of state-level “smart growth” programs in states with and without statewide programs…. Found that smart growth states did well at what they set out to do, but not at all things: “While no state performs well across all objectives, the ranking do support the conclusion that smart growth programs can and do achieve smart growth goals.” (39)… three sets of recommendations:

- Program Structure and Transparency: a vision of smart growth development and outcomes needs to support the program; “Smart growth polices can be implemented on either a top-down or a bottom-up basis, but an approach that coordinates policies at the regional level is a minimal requirement to achieve smart growth objectives.” (40); policies must articulate means for achieving objectives, accomplishing implementation, rather than just stating broad objectives

- Functional Linkages and Program Design: program design should account for interactions among policies and across agency boundaries; policies should utilize
economic incentives and pricing; programs need to understand income distribution consequences and burdens

- Program Sustainability and Monitoring: government must be committed for the long haul; data measurement and collection is inadequate; more research on policy synergies needed; outcome measures and indicators are currently inadequate

Innes, Judith E. and David E. Booher 2010 Planning with Complexity: An Introduction to Collaborative Rationality for Public Policy New York: Routledge

Traditional expert models versus collaborative model, times have changed to favor collaborative models able to focus on whole places and problems in context rather than bureaucratically defined and separated contexts… three trends have launched this book: traditional linear methods relying on experts being replaced by nonlinear socially constructed processes; ideas about what constitutes knowledge and where it comes from are changing; different forms of reasoning/analysis gaining ground (storytelling and the role for narrative)

They call the emerging paradigm “collaborative rationality”…. “A process is collaboratively rational to the extent that all the affected interests jointly engage in face to face dialogue, bringing their various perspectives to the table to deliberate on the problems they face together. For the process to be collaboratively rational, all participants must also be fully informed and able to express their views and be listened to, whether they are powerful or not. Techniques must be used to mutually assure the legitimacy, comprehensibility, sincerity, and accuracy of what they say. Nothing can be off the table. They have to seek consensus.” (6)

They claim: collaboratively rational processes will not only produce effective options but make communities more adaptive and resilient; the process and how it unfolds matters; collaborative processes can lead to changes in larger systems and make institutions more effective and adaptive… reviews emergence of ideas in planning and key theoretical works, particularly Habermas

“Three conditions are critical to whether a collaborative process can be collaboratively rational, productive of socially valuable outcomes, and adaptive to the opportunities and challenges of its unique and changing context. These conditions include full diversity of interests among participants, interdependence of the participants, who cannot get their interests met independently, and engagement of all in face to face authentic dialogue meeting Habermas’ basic speech conditions.” (35) …this DIAD theory is the core for the practice described in the book… four key results: participants discover shared interests; stakeholders develop relationships that continue beyond the end of the process; both single loop and double loop learning occurs; second and third order effects leading to system adaptation can occur that transcend agreements made and the process itself… goes on to use case studies to derive lessons from practice
“Dialogue is at the core of collaborative rationality. It is within dialogue where ideas and choices emerge and where confusing and conflicting views and knowledge can be transformed into something that is both rational and meaningful. Dialogue is neither debate nor argument. In its simplest definitions it is conversation, an exchange of ideas, or a discussion between representatives of parties to conflict that is aimed at resolution (Merriam Webster 2003).” (119) …and… “Storytelling is thus central to how dialogue builds meaning and identity, transforms participants and even moves them to action. … They (stories) provide a way to disagree without arguing, to build on and from the perceptions of participants, while bringing in multiple kinds of knowledge.” (131)

“At its heart, adaptive governance is about harnessing the power of networks—networks that connect people, ideas, and knowledge in changing combinations across organizations and public problems. These fluid linkages have emerged to address many problems where traditional structures of government have failed.” (208)


Looked at CALFED water planning process because it was “…a mature example of a large-scale, collaborative effort to manage a far-flung resource subject to multiple jurisdictions.” … found that CALFED collaboration was informal and ad-hoc but exists in tension with “norms and structure of formal government.”

Informality is unregulated behavior, can be illegal, connotes casual and spontaneous … “The formalistic approach produces routinization of interaction, procedural fairness, and detachment, while the informalistic order produces creativity and a free flow of information, affective involvement, and relative chaos.” (198)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Comparison of formalistic and informalistic interaction orders.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Formalistic interaction orders</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Ratification of authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Routinization of interaction</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Social and emotional detachment</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Procedural fairness</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Status differentiation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Informalistic interaction orders</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Free flow of information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Creativity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Familiarity and affective involvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Relative chaos</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Status leveling</td>
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Source: Adapted from Morand (1995, p. 843).
Collaboration works through a network rather than a hierarchy

Tensions between formality and informality: go it alone versus collaborate; plans as blueprints versus plans as heuristics; design ahead or design as you go; formal procedures versus ad hoc action; formal public participation versus informal stakeholder engagement; top-down authority versus shared responsibility

“Planning is about the uncertain future and thus cannot be fully formalized in rules and procedures, but planners nonetheless have to be answerable to formal agencies and accountable to the public.” (207)


Region politically defined, has grown over the years, in 1994 an area of 21 million people and larger than California and West Virginia combined, ARC regarded as model of “effective federalism” among other things, paper attempts to evaluate whether it has succeeded at spurring economic (re)development or whether it is the boondoggle that some claim, begins with description of ARC strategy combining physical infrastructure, social programs, and regional coordination (highways and use of growth center theory of particular interest to planner and regional scientists)

Highways and improved access seen as key both to creating economic linkages and for connecting residents to services and opportunities…growth center strategy evolved in three stages: initial recognition of linkage between urban centers and hinterlands, then desire to concentrate programs in areas with greatest potential for future growth, finally the designation of 125 growth centers using central place theory and services rather than industries and technologies… ultimately growth center policy nailed by political process and pressures, attention turned to “distressed counties”…. Ongoing critical perspectives on ARC advanced from right and left

Evaluation methodology here goes beyond typical statistical and qualitative methods to establish control group counties from outside Appalachia… provides description of methodology for selecting control “twins” for each of the 399 counties in the ARC region… primary question is whether ARC counties grew faster than matched twins….found that ARC counties grew faster though not all ARC counties grew as quickly AND the use of ARC program features and other contextual factors left 85% of the difference in growth Unexplained… did ARC programs make the difference in growth rates? Can’t say except to say that something significant has happened in ARC counties that didn’t happen in controls

Based on his book, Commonplace….

“Regionalism is an ambiguous term. To an urban planner it means thinking bigger – planning at the scale of the region rather than at the scale of the subdivision or municipality. To an architect, regionalism means thinking smaller – resisting the forces that tend to homogenize buildings across the country and around the globe in favor of forces that are local. Critical Regionalism is a term invented by architects that means thinking regionally in ways that are wary and non-sentimental. It guards against the mindless nostalgia for traditional architecture to which regionalism has been prone in the past.” (8)

not modernism or post-modernism…not about global forms or nostalgic glances at the past…in the here and now but grounded in place and aware of the wider world…key points: sense of place (genius loci and love of place); sense of nature (“Nature is a good model for design because it holds the key to vitality and sustainability.”); sense of history; sense of craft; sense of limits…. Taken together, they create an “architecture of place”


Survey of 384 MPOs to identify innovations for improving diversity of participants, improving the gathering and sharing of knowledge with the public, and better understanding incentives for participation… found that issues of knowledge sharing and diversity are critical in public transport planning because transit riders diverse, transit riding requires utilization of wide range of info, transit operations much more complicated, trade-offs need to be understood and made in metro context rather than simply line by line or in local areas … found that participation not easy, no clear winners, and that better to incorporate in region-wide and ongoing efforts

Krieger, Alex and William S. Saunders, eds. 2009 Urban Design Minneapolis:University of Minnesota Press

“An emerging generation of designers calling themselves landscape urbanists questions the supposition that urban design insight is the prerogative of architectural form-making sensibilities alone and asks, “Isn’t the landscape the real glue of the modern metropolis?” This startling proposition becomes less revolutionary the moment one tours virtually any contemporary metropolitan area from the air to observe the small proportion of building as compared to landscape. We are no longer building the solid city represented in figure-
ground plans in which open space is what is left where there are no buildings, or what is shaped by surrounding built form. While still somewhat vague in methodology and projects, the promise of landscape urbanism is powerful, since it promotes a logical integration of land use, environmental stewardship, and place making.” (Preface, x, Krieger)

“…urban designers can find themselves trapped between two societal expectations: be guardians of what is best about traditional urbanism, yet also help orchestrate our urban futures by creatively responding to contemporary conditions.” (Preface, xii)

“For me, urban design lacks a penumbra of scholarship, theory and principles, a set of generally recognized working methods, an institutional setting, and a mass of practitioners. These constitute a “discipline.” Lacking them, urban designers tend to borrow precepts, methods, and concepts from architecture—but late in the game. They borrow theoretical hand-me-downs—architecture’s old clothes…” (Denise Scott Brown, 82)

Krueger, Rob and David Gibbs 2008 “‘Third Wave’ Sustainability? Smart Growth and Regional Development in the USA” Regional Studies 42(9):1263-1274

First wave/environment and growth control, second wave/infrastructure and growth management, third wave/market mechanisms and smart growth…. Smart growth brings together those seeking a “new paradigm for suburban development and those who seek a housing market unfettered by government intervention.” … speaks to “how and where” of development, uses market-based mechanisms to shape and implement planning policy, case study of smart growth policies in Boston region, smart growth shifts focus from government regulation to achieve policy compliance to government incentives for compliance, also sustainable development supposed to be about a change in course but smart growth “…may indeed just be a result of a fetishized urban lifestyle, not a change of course” since smart growth doesn’t address the issue of consumption at all


Reviews literature on metropolitan economies, urban/suburban interdependence, suggests that regional planning can enhance regional economic prosperity by furthering collaboration at a metropolitan scale and by addressing issues of concern to business that operate at a metropolitan scale …. “Hence, it seems reasonable to include regional planning, as a measure of regional coordination, among the factors that positively affect the economic welfare of the metropolis.” (198) …. Metropolitan area as critical economic unit in context of nation has created new interest in regional planning at metropolitan scale as focus for practice and scholarship
Mackaye, Benton  1940  “Regional Planning and Ecology”  Ecological Monographs  10(3):349-353

Ecology: relation of organisms to their environment
Regional Planning: …planning = contriving or recording…planning is discovery, not invention… a new exploration: “Its essence is visualization – a charting of the potential now existing in the actual.” (349)… the thing planned is not area or land but movement or activity… region = a sphere as in sphere of influence…example: range of action of water in a river system… object of planning is the watershed, the region, but planned as a range of water flow and not as an area… so, “Regional Planning is a comprehensive ordering or visualization of the possible or potential movement, activity, or flow (from sources onward) of waters, commodities, or population, within a defined area or sphere, for the purpose of laying therein the physical basis for the “good life” or optimum human living. … Regional planning is ecology. It is human ecology; its concern is the relation of the human organism to its environment. The region is the unit of environment. Planning is the charting of activity therein affecting the good of the human organism; its object is the application or putting into practice of the optimum relation between the human and the region. Regional planning in short is applied human ecology.” (351)

Mahoney, Timothy R. and Wendy J. Katz, eds.  2008  Regionalism and the Humanities  Lincoln, NB: University of Nebraska Press

“…regionalism as an approach in the humanities is not necessarily an effort to produce a consensual history of a place, a period, or a people. It can equally or instead emphasize pluralism and conflict among and between competing identities. In fact, the great contribution of the humanities to the study of regions is derived from its insistence that nature matters, but matters particularly or insofar as that nature is transformed by various human categories. Accordingly, different disciplines target a range of apparently subjective and unscientific criteria for region: the political, legal, economic, and symbolic marks with which various groups of humans establish establishment of their territorial boundaries, under the assumption that these shape the region as much or more than patterns of rainfall.” (xii)


Collaborative planning identified by Godschalk and Mills in 1966 as collaborative approach to planning based on 2-way communication process between public and planners, needs a more “robust” model for practice, sets out to study obstacles faced by stakeholder groups in practice as means for better clarifying model for collaborative planning
Three phases: problem setting (stakeholders involved, convener identified), direction setting (stakeholder group interacts to achieve consensus), implementation through individual and joint actions

Obstacles to consensus:
--Stakeholder selection key, inclusiveness versus maintaining a workable number
--lines between lobbying, public involvement, and dispute resolution seen to be blurring
--contextual issues (institutions, history, technical)
--resources/operational issues: money for process, for implementation, concern over consensus process and resolving conflict, member drop-out and lack of renewed training
--lack of commitment to process by planners and decisionmakers
--poor representative behavior by organizational reps
--lack of constituency by participants
--ideology
--stakeholder power and capacity
--coordinator and chair expertise and skill


Cultural planning and programming emerged since mid-1980s as key economic and community development strategy but little known about what works and at what scale, “causal claims” about efficacy and about roles for “artists and other bohemians”, proposes a research agenda for better understanding impacts and claims of cultural development advocates


“When people work together across boundaries, they take part in something larger than their individual jurisdictions. … Regional collaboration, then, is working together on a scale that transcends the usual jurisdictional boundaries. This is the sense of region that informs this book: a landscape that encompasses a given challenge or opportunity and that fits people’s sense of identify and purpose.” (2)

governance gap: no institutions charged with dealing with transboundary issues

Continuum of Regional Collaboration: networks…partnerships…regional institutions

Networks – informal relationships, networks emerge when relationships become more formal and sustained, occurs via networking, happen when participants recognize need for network to accomplish own goals, commitments open-ended and often not specified
Partnerships – participants agree to provide a specified level of effort towards a common goal, move from sharing ideas to sharing resources… regional councils, intergovernmental agreements, and intergovernmental consolidations used to act on land use goals

Regional Institutions – most formal, can occur via new intermediaries, actual regulatory agencies, relatively permanent and sustained

Lessons: working across boundaries requires a willingness to engage people and interests; regional collaboration varies tremendously in form and focus; regional collaborations produce a range of outcomes by creating public opportunities that would not have existed; no single model but must be homegrown

Ten principles for effective collaboration:
Diagnose(determine the need for regional collaboration): 1) Identify compelling issue or catalyst, 2) determine if there is a constituency for change
Design (match the process to the situation): 3) determine who should convene and lead the effort, 4) mobilize and engage the right people, 5) define the region to match the place, problem, and people, 6) get organized
Take Action (formulate and implement actions): 7) facilitate scientific and public learning, 8) develop an action plan, 9) move from vision to action
Evaluate (learn and adapt): 10) learn as you go, adapt as needed (28)

Three main driving forces: emerging threat, immediate crisis, promising opportunity

Success factors: recognize that regional collaboration a process and a goal; increase understanding and skills of people involved; build a constituency for regional collaboration; develop leaders; create legal and institutional incentives for collaboration; get foundations involved; develop and refine our understanding of regional collaboration; expand the practice


Proposes a pragmatic sustainability to bridge normative aspirations with practical limitations and applications… collaborative processes as key, narrative as means for engaging people in changing behavior/acting according to a new story, grounded in place… key themes explored: struggle to define terms, technological cultures and the issue of scale, sustainability and place/links to multiple local perspectives, sustainability and cities and the important contextual role of history, and civil society, industry, and regulation… pragmatic sustainability as practical tool rather than philosophy… elements of a pragmatic sustainability: history, consequentialism, pluralism, determinism, secularization, transdisciplinarity, storylines
Vincent B. Canizaro, pages 150-168, “Regionalism, Place, Specificity, and Sustainable Design”… dialogs about sustainability in architecture stem from one or more of three central discourses: energy efficiency post-1970s oil crisis, sustainability ala the Bruntland Commission, regionalism dating from the 17th century. “Within this architectural history, there lies a common thread of concern that leads to the possibility of a more environmentally responsive architectural practice that the technocratic and fashionable practice we see today. That thread, regionalism, is attention, awareness, and thinking in terms of local places (or regions) experientially, ecologically, and in terms of their social and cultural construction.” (151)… proposes that sustainability springs from a longer and older dialog about regionalism embedded in modernism, and that regionalism offers a foundation for the evolving discourse on and development of sustainability… four distinct regional discourses: regional planning, referential regionalism, regional modernism, and bioregionalism… proposes a fifth: civic environmentalism… “Regionalism can be generally characterized as a discourse about connectedness to place and within this discourse are distinct conversations about contextualism, site-specificity in art and design, landscape urbanism, and planning. … It (a region) is sufficiently large enough to be understood as a spatial area capable of supporting a diversity of human and non-human life via agriculture, naturally available resources, and with provision for adequate recreation. … Thinking in terms of regions, rather than the immediate “property” being developed affords architects, planners, economists, and others to make specific and local choices in a wider cultural and environmental perspective. The varying viewpoints from which this wider perspective derives is what differentiates the plural regional discourses of regional planning, referential regionalism, regional modernism, bioregionalism, and civic environmentalism.” (153)

Regional planning. about scale, larger context for development, regional planning “…seeks to secularize the negative tendency towards the mythification of place and the economic abstraction of places. Both practices, I hold, conceal the accumulation of power by elites behind false claims to represent a higher authority. By secularizing both nature and economics, regionalist planners look toward the democratic construction of sustainable places.” (155)

Civic environmentalism … collaborative planning… “Through local sensitivity tempered with knowledge and skills from the outside, we increase the potential for design to yield the “goods” promised by regionalism, regional planning, sustainability, and civic environmentalism – places of ecological and economical integrity, community, justice, and beauty.” (165)


Network paradigm overcomes traditional tension between market and state “Over the past few years in particular we have witnessed the spread of a new paradigm, variously referred to as the network or associational paradigm. Whatever the
shortcomings of this new paradigm, it is clearly fuelled by the pervasive belief that ‘markets’ and ‘hierarchy’ do not exhaust the menu of organizational forms for mobilizing resources for innovation and economic development…” (492)

two propositions frame this: innovation is an interactive process/the process should be conceived of as a process of interactive learning, AND innovation is shaped by a variety of institutional routines and social conventions

“All of this might seem far removed from the study of regional development. But in recent years there has been a growing convergence between students of economic geography and students of innovation; the former are becoming more interested in innovation capacity as a way of explaining uneven regional development, while the latter are no longer so impervious to spatial considerations in their work on technological change.” (494)

“… the globalist school of thinking, which tends to the view that global forces, especially multinationals, are somehow impervious to spatial considerations. But we are now beginning to appreciate that globalization and localization, far from being mutually exclusive processes, are actually much more interwoven than is generally acknowledged because foreign direct investment is often attracted to, and has a reinforcing effect upon, ‘innovation clusters’ in the targeted country…” (495)

**Morrison, T. H. 2006 “Pursuing Rural Sustainability at the Regional Level: Key Lessons from the Literature on Institutions, Integration, and the Environment” Journal of Planning Literature 21(2):143-152**

Rural issues often institutionally complex, “A regional approach to resolving institutional complexity appeals to many who view the region as a naturally occurring whole, appropriate for considering all consequences (e.g., socioeconomic and biophysical) in decision making.” (144) however, most of effort associated with thinking about regional scale for problemsolving rather than actual mechanism for achieving it

Reviews ideas about institutions, emergence of governance as a vehicle for integrating actors though it dramatically increases the number of actors involved…points to a collaborative regional planning, focus on use of language (Healey, Allmendinger, Forester) … “….both Healey and Forester are less concerned about getting results that about making democracy work by enhancing relationships and what Forester refers to as “nurturing public virtue, as sense of a political ‘we’” (Forester 1989,244) Whereas collaborative planning is about establishing a communicative process that results in regional integration, common-property resource management is much more focused on setting up a regionally integrative structure that then ensures that actors are committed to a number of processes, including communication.” (147) …contrasts collaborative planning with resource management ala Ostrom (Ostrom: creation of rules for engagement that can exist as a third way besides privatization or top-down regulation in response to Hardin’s narrow casting of responses to tragedy of commons… Ostrom
points out that people can and do make binding arrangements with each other ala governance)

Suggests that regional institutional integration less about the region than about the various forces and actors and institutions acting on those finding themselves inside a region: “….institutional integration, therefore, is not necessarily about voluntary and consensual participation but about positional relationships between actors in a network of governance. Finally, regional institutional integration is shaped not only by relationships of power but also by social constructions. Any integrative initiatives, therefore, will always be deeply conflicted and contested.” (150) It’s not about institutions “integrating” that institutions interact through complex relationships of an array of individual actors

What does this mean for planning? “First, the understanding enables us to see that there are multiple causes of integration (beyond strategic planning and structural/boundary reorganization); integration also could be function (e.g., project driven), informational (e.g., knowledge driven), facilitative (e.g., resource driven), and contextual (e.g., externally driven). Dynamic global economies, perceived environmental threats, longstanding social connection, and new information technologies all can be seen as resources and opportunities for regional institutional integration. This new understanding, thus, can widen our appreciation of the range of resources and opportunities that encourage and enable integrative activities far beyond the development of a specific regional organization, boundary, or plan. As I argued earlier, institutional integration is not just about designing rules, law, and governance but also about changing behavior, norms, and values… Second, this very multiplicity of activities, resources, and opportunities reduces the transaction costs of regional institutional integration by providing a backdrop of nodes and other established integrative activities against which new integrative activities can occur in a relatively efficient and effective manner. In this sense, wickedness is not only the raison d’etre of regional institutional integration but also a necessary precondition.” (150)

Planners should “…seek to build on the preexisting conditions of wickedness and the wider range of resources and opportunities for integration that this wickedness avails to actors rather than seek to manufacture an organization, boundary, or plan.” (151)

Comment….this describes the RUGGO/2040 process (!)… cataloguing “wickedness” led to actors creating the plan


The problem prompting this study – regional problems (problems of regional scale) coming to the fore:
1) inadequacy of single states to carry out all planning for natural and human resources as evidenced by rapid increase in interstate compacts dealing with, among other things, watersheds, oil conservation, labor standards, crime prevention (comment: watersheds, energy conservation, educational standards, climate change, drug interdiction)

2) development of an extensive interstate cooperation movement (comment: PCC, WGICC)

3) rise of metropolitan planning, as in NYC, Chicago, Philadelphia, Washington DC, St. Louis

4) emergence of two “groups of states” planning regions: Pacific NW and New England

5) establishment of more than 100 types of Federal regions for administering departments and agencies

6) creation of TVA and proposals for more

7) “The pressure of economic distress and unbalance in various agricultural-industrial areas of the US…” (comment: uneven development, the rust belt, the English experience)

Principles for a national planning program: policies of all governmental units intersecting a problem should be considered; Feds need to get their house in order first; sharing of powers between national, interstate, and state authorities; decentralization to a subnational scale to enable regional coordination; “The selection of the area and its planning center should be made with reference to the general coincidence of major planning problems, such as land use, water use, and public works, with the regional sentiment in a given area. Since these problems differ in the extent of the area which they affect, the boundaries of the area should be flexible rather than fixed, and the States with which cooperation must be sought will vary somewhat with the particular problem under discussion. The aim is always to interrelate the various Federal agencies with State and other governments concerned with the planning problems of the area…” (vii)

“regionalism” ala Odum: “Regionalism envisages the Nation first, making the total national culture the final arbiter, while sectionalism sees the region first and the Nation afterward. In the second place, sectionalism emphasizes political boundaries and state sovereignty, technical legislation, and local loyalties.” (ix)

“A regional organization, whatever its varied form, should not be considered a new form of sovereignty, even in embryo. It need never develop to the stage where it will have elected officers, a legislative body, and the power to tax. Consequently, the region need not have fixed boundaries. By the same token, the region need have no definite body of citizens ….regional planning work should be focused in a central office to which have been assigned certain problems, largely overlapping because having different areal extents.”” (ix)

“It is patent, therefore, that the whole meaning of regional planning is to devise a cultural pattern which will fit a large areal unit, and that the qualities inherent in the area not only dictate in large part the features of that plan but also its territorial extent.” (20)
“Planning problems plainly adhere to geographical peculiarity, whereas planning control adheres to State and other political peculiarity. As a consequence, the areas involved are so different in extent and nature that they cannot, under our present system, be made to coincide.” (20)

“No one can predict what will be the lines of regional consciousness in the future, nor forecast in what way it will impinge upon future policies of public administration. On the other hand, this should not result in an arbitrary allocation of areal jurisdiction, nor in leaving to chance or spontaneous influences, the drawing of regional lines. Nor is the problem most advantageously solved solely by devising new administrative arrangements and leaving them to generate their territorial spheres through trial and error.” (138)

“…”regionalism” is a clustering of environmental, economic, social, and governmental factors to such an extent that a distinct consciousness of separate identity with the whole, a need for autonomous planning, a manifestation of cultural peculiarities, and a desire for administrative freedom, are theoretically recognized and actually put into effect. … In one sense, and perhaps the best one, regionalism is a way of life; it is a self-conscious process.” (138)

“Sectionalism in the political sense is probably inevitable, but regionalism is not. Regionalism as a background for planning must itself, therefore, be carefully planned for an nurtured.” (139)

“Two meanings have been commonly attached to the term region: One, that it is a device for affecting control; the other that it is an area possessed of certain attributes. The former would denominate the region as an abstraction, the latter would make it concrete in character.” (139) region as control emerges from administrative objectives, region as place from environmental characteristics/realities, two are mutually exclusive but must be reconciled

definitions of region fall into three groups: dictionary definitions which are really definitions of “area”, definitions based on a grouping of static elements, definitions based on region as “dynamic and vital unit”

Survey of “regional scientists”: “A region is generally considered to be an area exhibiting homogeneity in one or more of its aspects, and this it represents an areal or spatial generalization. …. It seems to be agreed that regional boundaries are indefinite, being zones rather than lines. In the majority of instances, therefore, any boundaries which may be drawn will be necessarily arbitrary. It appears, however, that it is desirable to draw boundaries, providing their arbitrary nature be admitted. …. There is considerable diversity in opinion regarding what regional basis should underlie national planning. The consensus of opinion seems to indicate that except for a narrow range of developmental operation, the river basin is one of the poorest types of units which might be selected. … It appears to be generally believed that State boundaries have little relation to genuine
regionality. Slightly more than one-third of those consulted, however, seem to feel that State lines probably should not be ignored in the delineation of planning regions.” (145)

“Although the layman usually employs the word “region” as a synonym for “area,” the preceding discussion shows that in scientific thinking certain definite qualities and properties have long been attached to it. In other words, “area is a mere abstraction, while a region is more or less tangible and may be fixed in terms of space.” … A careful analysis of all information available indicates that three general uses of the word “region” are permissible. These three uses are, however, possibly of unequal validity. They include the following: (a) areas of homogeneity or unity measured in terms of a single factor, (b) areas of unity or homogeneity measured in terms of several or many factors, and (c) areas demarked for purposes of administration or control.” (153)

“Regional planning involves the development of cities and countrysides, of industries, and natural resources, as parts of a regional whole. It aims to determine and to enforce by law rational, ordered policies in the use of specific tracts of land – whether for farm or forest, park or reservoir or settlement, airport or highway or railroad. Actually the problems and difficulties of regional planning seem not so very different from those of city planning except in magnitude and responsibility. The principal technical difference lies in the fact that regional planning deals with the interrelations of communities rather than with the problems of individual cities. … For the regional planner, however, it has been suggested that “a region is an area unified by common economic and social purposes, large enough to permit a reasonable adjustment of necessary activities to subareas and small enough to develop a consciousness of community aims.” (155)

…. The regional problem: defining a region for planning purposes and deciding whether it is larger than a state or simply a different kind of unity regardless of size… depends on “objectives being sought” … principal concern at the time was “socio-economic advancement” … Delineation of regions for planning: A planning region “should exhibit the following physical characteristics:

(a) Its territory should be as contiguous and compact in outline as possible, rather than fragmented.
(b) It should possess the maximum degree of homogeneity, i.e., it should exhibit marked homogeneity of elements and characteristics in its central core, which homogeneity becomes progressively diluted toward the periphery. The boundaries themselves are in most instances transition zones rather than sharp lines.
(c) It should possess unity, organic interrelationship, and cohesion, i.e., it should have unity in environmental characteristics, to such an extent that it is or tends to be overlaid by a dominant type of cultural pattern embodying the works of man.
(d) It should include all territory containing a major combination of resources, i.e., it should be an economic-natural unit in general terms.
(e) It should include whole problem areas and not partial areas.
(f) It should include as nearly as possible a total areal pattern of culture and works and should not cut across such patterns.
(g) It should be so delineated as to conform to existing regional consciousness and sentiments.
(h) It should possess regional identity. …
(i) Lastly, it should be of fairly large size. … The term “region” seems to apply to the largest area within which there is marked unity in physical and cultural elements. Any area larger than this, loses its distinctive character in a welter of unlike traits.” (157)

Five methods to delineate planning regions as per the above: regions based on metropolitan “spheres of influence”; regions based on administrative convenience; regions based upon group-of-States arrangements; regions based on single-functional areas; region based upon composite planning problems (or aims) …. Identifies regions based on composite planning problems as most useful at that point

“Regional planning is not an end in itself; rather it is an instrument for arranging to do certain things more successfully. It is a basis for action. It is a means for deriving sensible policies and programs, and it should be an aid in determining what kinds of devices are most suited to carrying out those policies and programs.” (167) … Lack of institutions able to do this, need to create new regional entities to implement plans

“These or any other system of regions which may be adopted will, it is hoped: (a) Decentralize the present Federal assumption of planning from the National Capital; (b) give additional support and redirection to the energies now going into State planning; and (c) bring nearer to the common citizen the relevant aspects of national planning.” (178)

“Regionalism has made enormous strides in recent years. It is a movement which may be expected to progress steadily and rapidly. The problem of the planner is to collect the basic information, outline what needs to be done, criticize proposals which may be advanced without sufficient investigation. … Regionalism is real but its instrumentation is not self-executing. One must therefore pass on to examine those administrative problems which in the interest of human welfare make the meshing of levels of government more necessary, and the rational analysis of regional possibilities more imperative.” (179)

“We cannot predict how deeply, and in what manner, the loyalties of people to areas will persist and change. We accept as a fact that throughout all possible changes the problem of attempting to coordinate diverse powers and organization of government with the problems with which they must cope if representative institutions can function will be persistent.” (184)

“In facing the extremely complex problem of achieving coordinate planned development for interstate regions, the following questions press for satisfactory answer: How can the development efforts of several levels of government be effectively integrated on an interstate regional basis? Is formal regional organization required for this purpose, and if so, what types of organization? What systematic procedures will facilitate the planning of coordinate(d) regional development? How can the various and changing interstate
functional areas and regions be reconciled to the present need for effective coordinate(d) planning of the current and emerging interstate development functions of the governments?” (185)

… planning is about functional coordination among issues and programs, regional planning requires intergovernmental coordination particularly between states and fed… regional plan should coordinate and should fill in gaps between parallel efforts drawing on resources and imagination of the region

“It may not be too much to anticipate that the growth of regional planning will lead to the discovery of the regions, lead to greater regional expression and regional culture, lead to wiser and more useful development, lead to the emergence of true regional plans constituting coordinate parts of national programs. Meanwhile, as centers of collaborative planning work and as centers of information, the regional planning offices can be sources of stimulation to the creative forces of regions and of the Nation.” (196)

“Such terms as “coordination” and “planning” have no meaning unless the public official is encouraged by training and procedure to see his individual task, and that of the office in which he is employed, in its relation to the larger problems of policy and program. …. Much of that training must be secured after admission to the service and on the job; it should be, in fact, continuous.” (200)

… a zillion maps in the appendix…. Was quite carefully written to acknowledge the tension between federal planning initiatives and state prerogatives…


“ “Region” in this volume means the composite social region combining a relatively large degree of homogeneity measured by a relatively large number of indices available for a relatively large number of purposes or classifications. This means it must comprehend both the natural factors and the societal factors which much, of course, include the American states and prevailing historic, economic, and culture traits. The region may be, therefore, a “major” region not because of its geographical size but because of the number and importance of classifications of functional or cultural units.” (30)

“Composite societal regions are of two sorts: the major region and the minor region, which we designate the subregion. Both of these are clearly differentiated from single-purpose, isolated, specialized areas… Within this frame of reference, both major regions and minor regions may be of two sorts, namely the natural or physiographic region and the societal or cultural region, and, of course, in the exceptional case, they may approximate both.” (31)
rise of regional planning parallels metropolitan planning so that in regional planning often means metropolitan planning...urban planning different, narrower… “Like regionalism, planning here connotes the composite and comprehensive rather than merely the specialized and technical. As such, therefore, it assumes a program which, on the one hand, approximates the largest number of technical, workable ways of attaining the largest number of desired ends commensurate with existing societal arrangements and in harmony with the largest number of groups and agencies in the service of the greatest good to the greatest number.” (255)

“Manifestly, regional planning must be a complex affair, and by the same token a major tool for economic and social development of the nation.” (267)


Resurgence of interest in regions to deal with economic trends, social challenges, environmental problems not neatly contained by local or state jurisdictions… entry of new actors into field, particularly from business groups and NGO intermediaries… paper asks why this is so… competing theories: networked nature of info economy and globalization, region easier to “win” at for certain interests, nature of issues

Why? New regionalism - from economic efficiency and economies of scale to achievement of competitiveness … metro regions as scale at which inequalities best understood, generated, and addressed …. Political coalition building, Rusk and Orfield

Why Now? Region-specific factors matter now more than ever, poverty reduction based more on job quality than job quantity, hence kind of growth more important than amount of growth, conversation more nuanced and differences in position clearest at regional scale

Who cares? Equity proponents, business interests

“While the results of any one analysis do not make a conclusive case, the overall pattern suggests that regions do matter more today for both economic competitiveness and social equity, but that the interest of regional equity proponents may, as in the case of the living wage, reflect some degree of venue shopping in favor of more favorable political and policy outcomes.” (290) …. Equity proponents seek to join regional dialog in pursuit of wage growth (as opposed to simply job growth/numbers)... business joins regional dialog for efficiency concerns: overcoming gov fragmentation, coordinating transportation systems and investments, dealing with disproportionate suburban job growth

Commentary on Brookings May, 2010, “State of Metropolitan America” report, new fiscal realities, shared infrastructure challenges (financing and development), new public concerns for education and competitiveness all signs of new and potentially essential city/suburban collaboration… but income inequality, education gaps, aging population and its differences with younger groups (race and class) stand as major challenges to heightened collaboration particularly when associated with metropolitan settlement.


Looks at application of resilience to regions in terms of three assumptions associated with the concept: an implication of an underlying equilibrium, a portrayal of places as systems of systems, a presumption of path dependence

May be more useful to view equilibria as turning points rather than stable states, regions views as resilient if “when faced by with a challenge, it responds in ways that maintain or even increase good outcomes.” (9)… relevance to region of equilibrium concepts depends on nature of challenge and of desired outcome

Human regions as complex adaptive, open systems, but a boundary problem, boundaries hard to identify, struggled over, not completely open or closed, different effects at different scales, interventions operate similarly at different scales in time and space, also the extent to which regions/social systems are structured lies in eye of beholder

“For a region’s development is path dependent may just be a fancier way of saying that “history matters.” Such a statement, however, is not an explanation; we need to know which people made which decisions, why, and how it was that no one contradicted them or tried to change course even when modest changes might not have been terribly costly. Moreover, we need to learn from cases (rare though they may be) in which regional institutions and infrastructure that appeared locked in suddenly “came unstuck,” finding the root of change in human action and understanding the conjunction of forces necessary to call those actions into existence.” (19)


New regionalism “sees metropolitan regions as engines of growth or sites of innovation for the New Economy. It is based on the idea that (1) the national economy is overwhelmingly centered in an driven by metropolitan areas … and (2) regional reforms will improve the economic competitiveness of regions in the global economy…The new regionalism centers on how to best plan and govern cities and their suburbs so as to advance their economic well-being....” (336)
A progressive or critical regionalism has arisen around the inability or unwillingness of the new regionalism to entertain issues of sustainability and social equity. Future research and action “… needs to (1) build capacity for global-mindedness and the bridging of scales, (2) conceptualize regions holistically as both socioeconomic and socioecological spaces, and (3) extend our approach to progressive regionalism to include metropolitan-rural relations and interdependencies.” (339)

Phares, Don, ed. 2009 Governing Metropolitan Regions in the 21st Century New York: M.E. Sharpe

Metroplitan regions and their governance a topic in and out of vogue, currently very hot, two main streams: government via formal government structures versus governance via informal arrangements and networks…. Two other critical issues: territory/boundaries and services/functions… no easy or clear solutions

Metro governance characteristics in practice (not in all cases): regional (filling gap between local and state/federal), democratic, organizationally inclusive, municipal focus, voluntary cooperation… in general, governance arrangements have developed incrementally and over time, little agreement on vision for what should be created, local context is essential but metropolitan areas are significant and like to become more so and there is a toolbox of known reforms

“… recently published literature on regionalism and metropolitan governance demonstrates at least the following about this field:
--no consistent story is being told about regionalism;
--no consistent approach to issues relating to regionalism has been developed or appears to be evolving;
--no consistent methodologies are employed to examine issues around regionalism;
--no consistent message is being provided about regionalism; and finally
--few, if any, studies have critically examined the need for or desirability of regionalism from the broader perspective of the entire metropolitan area.” (26)

outlines 16 economic and mostly political factors working against or at least complicating/slowing down any fundamental movement to regional governance and concludes that little change likely in the future, move to regionalism will be incremental and piecemeal in face of unchanging local politics and concerns

Pike, Andy, Andres Rodriguez-Pose, and John Tomaney 2006 Local and Regional Development London:Routledge

Reviews theories of development and uses cases to illustrate major assumptions and approaches…. Seeking holistic, progressive, and sustainable models…local and regional development versus national development, notes that despite importance and evidence of emergence of holistic, progressive, and sustainable forms (appropriate to the place and
rooted there), there are limits to what local and regional development can achieve… four key issues:
--globalization and ambiguity for role of nations, degree to which nations embrace a new regionalism that doesn’t account for existing inequalities
--quasi governance of local and regional development efforts…”The myriad interests involved in localities and regions need accountable and transparent institutional mechanisms of representation, dialogue, and resolution to ensure their voice, involvement, and participation is secured.” (267)
--ambiguity regarding who is in charge, remaining role for nation at regional level, who is responsible for what and at what level
--weak leadership and declining trust in all institutions
.... Identify a renewed local and regional politics as essential to serving core purposes and values

Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, MA (PF012)

Regions defined as place-based, functional, or via a synthetic “matrix” identity. Regionalism arises in response to a crisis, a perceived threat to existing quality of life, or to the opportunity to capture a competitive advantage. Five kinds of capacity needed: 1) Leaders as boundary crossers; 2) builds institutional capacity by building coalitions; 3) seeks and secures financial commitments from all sectors; 4) understands need for and secures technical capacity; 5) draws on social capital and civic capacity. Ad hoc efforts begin with a shared “handle” but then require commitments for sustaining action and sustaining institutional capacity/partnerships/collaborations. Lessons learned: Regionalism involves both sense of place and place for action. Start with where you’re at. Need, alone, is not enough…must combine with other aspects of capacity for ad hoc regionalism. Initial focus needs to be on building collaboration, not building an organization. Must demonstrate how a regional perspective and regional action add value.


“The idea of region is in many ways categorically different from other conceptualizations of place, like home, community, city, state, and nation, in that region must refer not to a specific site but to a larger network of sites; region is always a relational term…” (4)

“Regionalism as a scholarly area of interest or an aesthetic school of thought has itself been a remarkably diffuse concept. Regionalism is a term that has currency, but different values, in political science, urban planning, architecture and design, history, literature, and the visual arts…. Like the regional landscapes that are its object of study, regionalism is a loosely and variously defined zone that cuts across the boundaries of the academic
landscape. The core idea of this study, that a region is not a thing so much as a cultural history, an ongoing rhetorical and poetic construction, is not necessarily a new one for any arm of regional studies.” (6)

“Region, then, is not a thing in itself, a stable and bounded object of study. My assertion here is that just as “community” is for Raymond Williams “a warmly persuasive word to describe an existing set of relationships, or the warmly persuasive word to describe an alternative set of relationships“ (Keywords 76), “region” is always at some level an attempt to persuade as much as it is to describe. Because the “set of relationships” intersecting at any one point on the landscape is potentially unsummarizable by any one account, all versions of region are necessarily partial, and hence an attempt to persuade, at the very least, of the validity of their own particular definitions.” (21)

“If all versions of “region” are to lesser or greater degrees tendentious, then planning can be reconsidered not as an exercise in rational dominion but as a rhetoric, a set of language practices…” (24)

“The experience of place is always mediated by preconceived notions, expectations, biases, and attitudes of the observer, and by these same considerations as they intersect from other sources. The idea of place, often described as “sense” of place, is not so much sensory, as it is textual – taking text in the broad sense of its use in cultural critique, as any configuration of signs, any meaningful communicative set of objects.” (34)


Policy of achieving polycentric urban form in northwest Europe not being achieved… “If local authorities could desist from further mutual competition and cooperate on a number of vital points, greater competitiveness of the region as a whole and a better patter of landscapes would be achieved, together with better internal and external accessibility for collective and individual traffic. People are beginning to comprehend the challenges that lie at this level of strategic spatial planning. However, against these grand perspectives stand the coordination problems of everyday.” (294) … most successful initiatives via “informal cooperative relationships”…. Argues for a network or systems approach rather than a more institutional or jurisdictional approach

“A further complication is that the regions are real in the minds of spatial planners and some politicians, but not in the minds of the general population.” (294)

Read, Anna and Chirstine Shenot 2010 “Getting Smart about Climate Change” International City/County Management Association, Smart Growth Network, Washington, DC
Use of smart growth strategies to respond to challenges of climate change, based on case studies and assessment of smart growth efforts by jurisdictions and regions, nine strategies “.. for successfully applying smart growth principles to climate concerns on the local and regional levels:

1. Create more sustainable and resilient communities
2. Green the local economy
3. Engage the community in the climate change planning process
4. Approach climate change planning on a regional level
5. Address transportation through transit-oriented development and complete streets
6. Promote density through infill development and brownfield development
7. Adopt green building policies
8. Preserve and create green space
9. Plan for climate adaptation” (1)

Collaboration across jurisdictions can help to create successful plans and policies, important for sharing info and resources, building connections/networks, and for coordinating economic development, land use, open space, and transport planning


Establishes conceptual framework and methodology for evaluation taking into account the objectives of sustainable development at the regional scale in the European context


Regional planning for sustainability needs to be comprehensive and integrative and utilizes a strategic vision as the basis for any plan… planning needs a long-term anticipatory capacity to serve goals for sustainability


Recap of most of what has been written about megaregions…

Observations: little examination of who benefits and who pays/loses from this level of analysis, or examination of the differences between megaregion economies and infrastructure and national economies and infrastructure. Relies on growth projections as
basis for asserting emergence. Unclear whether benefits/power of adjacency has been systematically or critically addressed. Megaregions presented as unit for analysis and planning but no examination of community and agency at megaregional scale. A prospective rather than critical review.

Athens, Georgia: The University of Georgia Press

Originally published in 1991, here with new preface…ecological crises and abandonment of Gaea sets the stage for bioregionalism… bioregionalism about relearning the “laws of Gaea” and thereby become dwellers in the land… “method”: knowing the land, learning the lore, developing the potential (“Once the place and its potentials are known, the bioregional task is to see how this potential can best be realized within the boundaries of the region, using all the biotic and geological resources to their fullest, constrained only by the logic of necessity and the principles of ecology.” (46)), liberating the self (“…by living closer to the land one necessarily lives closer to the community, able to enjoy the communitarian values of cooperation, participation, sodality, and reciprocity that enhance individual development.” (47)) …. “Knowing, learning, developing, liberating—these, then, are some of the processes most central to the bioregional idea.” (47)

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(50)

bioregions made up of either ecoregions, georegions, or morphoregions…many distinct communities linked by their relationship to common bioregional identity… bioregionalism an old idea, points to Turner (sectionalism), Mumford (regionalism), Odum (regionalism), and the National Resources Planning Board as key historical antecedents and evidence of operation of idea in US over past 100 years (NOTE: interestingly, leaves out MacKaye entirely despite the fact that MacKaye lays this out in Sale’s own terms in *The New Exploration* …)
proposes regionalism as a “less militant” form of the fragmentation occurring in contemporary societies globally: “Regionalism—the conscious breaking down of larger national structures into smaller and more manageable ones, and the self-conscious perception of differences of place—is not the same order of political and cultural force as separatism, and it seldom has the same kind of drive towards autonomy. …it stems from the same felt needs as separatism does and is every bit as important a response to the currents of the era.” (157)

“Regionalism, in short, seems to have grown in this last decade primarily as a natural response to perceived inadequacies, a resurfacing of the underlying geographic realities that had been there all along, a reaffirmation of those old perceptions of Turner and Mumford and the rest that America is its regions. That this resurgence has happened without much coherence, with poorly understood motives and poorly planned organizations, and with no great understanding by the public at large of its character, does not mean that it is any less appropriate a response, any less significant a demonstration of the true nature of society. Rather, it suggests that the real need now is to take it all one step—or several steps—further and develop our regional consciousnesses and cultures and institutions with an explicit sense of purpose, making self-conscious and conspicuous what so far has been largely ignored or only dimly understood. Which is exactly what bioregionalism allows us, and why it is so appropriately a movement of its time.” (162)

Scott, James W., ed 2009 Decoding New Regionalism: Shifting Socio-political Contexts in Central Europe and Latin America Surrey, England: Ashgate

“New Regionalism is a complex paradigm. Basically, it is both a normative policy paradigm and a scientific perspective on the constitution of economic and social space. New Regionalism encompasses an enormous variety of theoretical and analytical perspectives. However NR is not a unifying concept; there is no cohesive corpus of theory – and even of fixed definitions – that can be seen as the exclusive domain of the New Regionalist paradigm. As a result, NR is fuzzy, imprecise and sprawling – a challenge, perhaps an affront, to those who seek unambiguous definitions, conceptual fixity and purity and ‘concrete facts’. Despite its fuzzy nature, NR exhibits ‘unity in diversity’ at least in one aspect; the prioritization of regions as a central locus of social organization – and thus of political, cultural and economic life. Out of this creative fuzziness, we can distinguish several areas of ideational focus that will be briefly discussed below.” (22) …political economy of regions central to NR, also a governance paradigm (region as territory) and regions based on culture and history/a product of discourse as much as bounded territory…political economy, governance, and social construction

“What economic, social, cultural and political roles might then regions realistically fulfill in terms of more effective governance and equitable development? Will (new) regionalism prove – or is it already – a victim of the vicissitudes of realpolitik and the shifting attentions of academic debate? The answer is clearly no for a number of reasons.
One of the main reasons is that manipulations of scale and territorial concepts are inherent to the politics of the state and of economic elites; as long as regionalism can be exploited to promote specific interest it will continue to resurface at specific junctures of societal development. Furthermore, regionalism is a long-term attempt to reconcile seemingly antagonistic tendencies of centralization and local empowerment and, at the same time, promotes the idea of integrating social, economic, political and cultural spaces. This complex socio-spatial project will not be abandoned any time in the near future, even though the means to achieve it are far from clear.” (44)


Looks at land stewardship as basis for community engagement in environmental management/issues… looked at propensity to partner, among other things…business rarely, government more than any other, ngos in between… “There is a strong underlying assumption made by this paper that without the introduction of a perceived crisis or risk, the only way to harness the capacity of stewardship groups is through deliberate multi-scaled, capacity building networks.” (21)


Resilience refers to ability to respond to crisis or failure, “No metropolitan area can rely on its legacy of past successes to succeed in the future. Arguably, what matters most is not how successful a metropolitan area is in the present, but how resilient it will be facing future challenges. Metropolitan areas that become “locked-in” to one economic trajectory or governing paradigm will soon find themselves left behind.” (1)

Investigates use of resilience framework from ecology for thinking about how metro regions respond, derived from field of systems ecology and posits regions as interconnected systems and strong feedback loops, Systems must be understood in terms of their function rather than their parts, in opposition to linear and single-purpose interventions and approaches…everything is connected and issues or problems must be understood in that context… resilience paradox: processes that increase efficiency and store wealth are less resilient (able to adapt to sudden change), challenge is to increase both efficiency and experimentation, we start not from a state of nature but from civil society

Regions seen as ecosystems with porous boundaries… nonetheless, political institutions can and do operate over and aside from this conception, a fundamental tension…
proposes a systems approach to metropolitan resilience, metropolitan regions as porous and in need of constant reinvention

Resilience is not an asset or a resource but a process of change, high social capital can be both an asset and impediment to resilience, “I argue that the diminishment of the role of the state and political conflict in favor of consensual social networks ends up being profoundly conservative, reinforcing the status quo. A diminished role for the state does indeed promote rapid innovation, but far from leading to resilience this can cause profound disorganization and social stress.” (16) … sees resilience arising from a combination of efforts from public, private, and nonprofit sectors where private sector maximizes resilience of individuals, nonprofit sector of communities, public sector of society

**Swanstrom, Todd, Karen Chapple, and Dan Immergluck**  May 27, 2009  **“Regional Resilience in the Face of Foreclosures: Evidence from Six Metropolitan Areas Building Resilient Regions, Institute of Governmental Studies, University of California-Berkeley, Working Paper 2009-05**

“Our broad conclusion is that effective metropolitan responses to foreclosures require local relations of trust and collaboration across public, private, and nonprofit actors supported by strong state, federal, and private sector policies. Local actors cannot adequately address the crisis on their own. They need the right kind of policies by higher level actors to support metropolitan resilience. Likewise, federal policy will not be effective if local actors do not have the capacity to organize their response.” (3)

resilience as ability of a system to bounce back, from ecological concept of resilience based on idea of multiple equilibria, in case of foreclosures resilient regions do not return to previous status quo but reinvent themselves, “At present, resilience is more than a metaphor but less than a theory.” (4) ….. Evidence of resilience: ability of regions and organizations within them to redeploy resources, collaborate across public/private/nonprofit sectors, mobilize or capture resources from outside the region… resilience a normative concept, here refers to maintaining stable neighborhoods with a minimum of displacement, ability of region to be resilient depends on scale and scope of the territory (real and institutional) over which it can create opportunities for actors to be resilient

found resilience in face of foreclosures to vary widely among metros, “The more resilient metros were better able to alter organizational routines, garner additional resources, and collaborate within and between the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.” (46) … also, resilience varied within metros with suburban areas lacking developed nonprofit sector particularly vulnerable… need for horizontal resilience (among sectors) and vertical resilience (among federal/state/local policymakers) to achieve regional resilience
Three essential but linked questions: Where am I? Who am I? What am I supposed to do?... to know where you are is to know who you are and also what you are supposed to do

“A bioregion is literally and etymologically a “life-place”—a unique region definable by natural (rather than political) boundaries with a geographic, climatic, hydrological, and ecological character capable of supporting unique human and nonhuman living communities. … Most importantly, the bioregion is emerging as the most logical locus and scale for sustainable, regenerative community to take root and to take place. …The bioregional or “life-place” concept suggests the efflorescence and emplacement of biophilia, our innate affection for the totality of life in all its forms. Although by no means a unified philosophy, theory, or method, the bioregional approach suggests a means of living by deep understand of, respect for, and ultimately, care of a naturally bounded region or territory.” (3)

“Embedded in the bioregional idea, therefore, is a very general hypothesis: that a mutually sustainable future for humans, other life-forms, and earthly systems can best be achieved by means of a spatial framework in which people live as rooted, active, participating members of a reasonably scaled, naturally bounded, ecologically defined territory, or life-place.” (6)

Living communities as definers of bioregions, “relocalizing” as basis for politics and economics, key for planning is to focus on the bioregion as unit for analysis, planning, and action… not jurisdiction, not resource, not project or system… antecedents in work of Mumford and MacKaye, RPAA, critical role for McHarg and his notion that ecology of a landscape or region was both discoverable and useful as basis for planning

“The practical bioregional hypothesis, then, is simply that for every bioregion there is a unique method or set of practices of planning, design, and management of the land and that this approach will result in a bioregionally unique set of landscape patterns.” (162) …and more regionally-inspired planning is essential for achieving a sustainable world in the future…calls the kind of planning needed “Life-place Planning”: highly regional and in response to unique regional characteristics (making the method and result unique), top-down expert approaches seen as inadequate, requires restablishment of both time and place (operating according to true time scales associated with ecology and place), qualitative decisions rather than quantitative ones

Suggested bioregional planning process:

1) define the boundaries of the bioregion
2) compile an extensive atlas of human and natural elements over time (map and narrative)
3) compile a history of the bioregion
4) complete a survey of how existing institutions intersect the region
5) identify laws, policies, plans that work against long-term bioregional health
6) spend equal time developing alternatives to degenerative and for creative forces
7) inventory success stories for application of local wisdom and stewardship
8) identify and aggregate bioregnerative patterns from work of individuals and
groups into a pattern language for the bioregion
9) involve everyone in the ongoing creation/evolution of a bioregional vision (178)
suggests that bioregional planners need broad, general, practical education within the
region where they’ll actually work, suggests days of distant consultants may be over (!),
proposes creating “majors of place”

“Life-place planning is neither a precise science nor a unified body of theory nor a
sophisticated art form nor a universally accepted procedure of any kind. Instead, it is an
evolving trend, a convergence of practical activities toward emphasis on preserving and
enhancing natural, local conditions. In a life-place, planning is merely one aspect
embedded within a greater culture of permanence.” (181) … implementation via smart
growth, green building, planning for biodiversity and resource conservation

Lessons learned from his 30-year practice in Sacramento: people are hungry for
knowledge of where they live; life-place education is multimodal and multidisciplinary;
life-places are spatial networks; great need for local generalists; people from many
different backgrounds can and are invested in specific local resources and places; life-
place learning builds community and social capital among different peoples; there is no
end to what can be learned about a particular life-place

**Visser, James A. 2004 “Voluntary Regional Councils and the New Regionalism:
Effective Governance in the Smaller Metropolis” Journal of Planning Education
and Research 24:51-63**

“New regionalism promotes regional action through governance, defined as the use of
interorganizational collaboration rather than hierarchical regional government to resolve
area-wide public problems.” (52)

Council effectiveness due to: membership and public support, organizational missions
and resources (or legal authority), intraorganizational capacity, civic infrastructure,
interorganizational networks, idiosyncratic history…. Compared effectiveness of two
regional councils, three conclusions:
--organizational development strategies matter
--a broadly representative membership may weaken regionally oriented policy attainment
--trust matters and it is manifested in effective voluntary collaboration

concludes that weak regionalism via voluntary councils unlikely to achieve new
regionalist ends for equity and participation but better than isolation or destructive
interlocal competition
Government versus collaborative governance, need for metropolitan umbrella bodies in order to have metropolitan governance, new regionalists look to fed gov for promotion of greater metropolitan interaction and governance, MPO planning under TEA-21 and ISTEA as means for advancing new regionalist agenda but does “governance without government” really work? … looked at proposal for new bridge across Ohio River as test… result with that greater governance did not result, MPLS and Portland examples maybe worked better because of greater social capital due to population homogeneity (?), may not be replicable, fundamentally more effort needed to be put into building regional social capital before doing regional planning ….. “A governance framework does not mean the absence of government but a better structuring of relations among governments….The important point is to provide an institutional base to house strategic planning and a framework to allow local governments to discern a metropolitan interest where one exists, forge a metropolitan vision for development, and coordinate activities and services that are regional in nature.” (129)

Looked at impact of Atlanta Regional Council policies on local planning and land use regulation…. Evaluated “regional development plans”, found that, “…the hypothesis that the local governments would not adopt the RDP policies without significant pressures was partially incorrect. The interviews and textual evidence demonstrate that the RDP did indeed influence county comprehensive plan policies, but did not influence county ordinances or other county restrictions. Rather, ordinances and other local restrictions were attributed to state and federal laws, entrepreneurism of emergency management staff (who were entirely unaware of the existence of the RDP, with one exception), high-profile events (ie floods and airplane crashes), and a host of other county-specific factors.” (695)

However, also found that the RDP played other roles/had other functions besides influencing local comp plans: providing info, data and maps; increasing awareness of regional problems and “softening up” the policy environment for future changes; providing a model for local planning and participation in planning; establishing best practices; inspiring changes in certain focused areas (ie transit stations); providing ARC with basis for own functional planning and internal reviews; and providing additional support for making changes in local codes

“… US regional governments are ineffectual by design, as they are given very little land-use power, no tax base, no direct representation, and no constitutional base…Thus, in
their role as a think tank, they may have an implied moral obligation to promulgate best practices and innovative land use policies...Thus, it appears worthwhile for COGS to produce these plans, despite the likelihood of repeated conformance failures.” (697)

Weaver, Clyde 1984  *Regional Development and the Local Community: Planning, Politics, and the Local Context*  New York: Wiley

“My central argument is that early regional planning, during the 1920s and 30s, proved unsuccessful because of the economic and political relations of the period, as well as the fact that planners lost sight of their central objective: local political control of economic power. With the rebirth of regional planning in the 1960s the very possibility of independent action was denied. Planning doctrine became an extension of the ideology of multinational capitalism. People and places that did not fit the scheme of the corporate economy found little guidance in its pronouncements. Today, though, because of a growing divergence between the interests of corporate economic power, local communities, and central governments, grassroots regional planning may present a viable alternative to arbitrary corporate-bureaucratic control. I will argue that contemporarily in industrialized countries regional planning should be one of the central strategies of democratic action.” (1)


Builds on Friedmann and Weaver’s “Territory and Function” from 1979, focus on planning, not about regionalism … current literature no less optimistic about prospects for regional planning and regionalism to address issues of growth, environment, landscape, economy, equity and race, instrumental positioned to address issues requiring coordination/cooperation and in light of new economic relationships and realities, regional governance lit quite pessimistic


Resurgence of interest in regional planning in 1990s particularly at metro scale in response for regional response to issues of growth management, environmental protection, equity, quality of life, along with interests in smart growth, new urbanism, and sustainability

New regionalism not so new… Odum and Moore in 30s, increasingly since mid-1990s, Pastor and city-suburban linkages, Markusen uneven regional development and deindustrialization, British RPG and new agencies
Reviews history of US regional planning, regional science, economic geography, lays out lineage from ecological regionalism (Geddes, Mumford, MacKaye) to regional science (Isard, Alonzo, Friedmann) to Neo-Marxist Regional Geography (Harvey, Castells, Massey, Sassen) to Public Choice Regionalism (Tiebout, Gordon, Richardson, Ostrom) to New Regionalism (Calthorpe, Rusk, Yaro, Orfield, Katz, Pastor, Downs)

Characteristics of the new regionalism: Focus on specific territories and spatial planning; tries to address problems created by growth and fragmentation in metro regions; holistic and integrates planning approaches associated with transportation, environment, land use, economic development, equity (sustainability, 3 Es); emphasized physical planning, urban design, sense of place; often adopt normative or activist stance … A reaction to previous generation that emphasized abstract, aspatial analysis … Implementation still difficult, new institutions and funding required, regional context needs to be broadly recognized


Region is vitally important to sustainability planning because of regional nature of sustainability planning challenges, boundary crossing… but little progress made in North America… However, regions also problematic for sustainability:

- mobility… regions assume high degree of mobility for integration of human activity over large scale, plus air travel becomes an issue at megaregional scale, strategies to make mobility more sustainable include increasing mode choice, changing land use, revising economic incentives/prices, all hard to implement at regional scale or without changes in planning, politics, lifestyle
- land and resource issues… low density urbanization, water use, farmland impacts, deforestation
- equity issues… concentrations of poverty and wealth, greater fragmentation over larger areas, economic development interests better organized at regional scale
- social and community issues… loss of human scale at larger regional scales, conflicts with sense of place due to need for global capital to fund large scale development
- economic development issue… sprawl patterns work against local stores and centers, supports chains, seeks multinational enterprises and employers

metropolitan regionalism on upswing but still a weak to nonexistent level of government/area for governance in most places, biggest obstacles are institutional and structural, jurisdictional fragmentation, works against effective coalition building and politics particularly at regional scale, more support for single-purpose “silo-based” regionalism as a result, sustainability planning at regional scale (metro) has limited success, even less at mega scale, “….we seem still far from the type of ecological planning, at either metropolitan or megaregional scales, promoted by Geddes, Mumford, and the RPAA in the early 20th century and optimistically foreseen nearly 30 years ago by Friedmann and Weaver.” (871)
sustainability planning has long-term time horizon, utilizes holistic approaches grounded in ecological thought, incorporates concept of limits, embraces local and regional sense of place (ala Kelbaugh and critical regionalism), recognizes need for regionalism/regionaization/regional scope and scale

Vision of sustainable regionalism:
- a focus on smaller-scale community development…local life in a regional setting
- management of resource use within regional limits… land, air, water
- development of strong sense of regional identity and bioregional stewardship
- improvements to regional equity
- economic development focused on improving social and ecological welfare
- intergovernmental framework that supports regionalism
- regional organizing and coalition building
- new themes and leadership to galvanize the public

Whitehead, Mark 2003 “From Moral Space to the Morality of Scale: the Case of the Sustainable Region” Ethics, Place, and Environment 6(3):235-257

Review of West Midlands regional plan, looks like many others but “From the outset, it is clear that the sustainable region is about the claiming of certain social, economic and environmental rights, and the realization of an equivalent set of personal responsibilities for ensuring that other people’s rights are not infringed.” (237) … and task of creating sustainable region assigned “beyond regional planning elites and politicians to include a much broader moral community…” …. Key moral goal is creation of balance between social needs, economic stability, and ecological integrity of the region, presents challenges/ethical code for businesses, local decision makers, and citizens… sustainable region codes of conduct that operate at scales from the individual to the landscape
“In the absence of the legal power which planning agreements often carry, the creation of the efficacious sustainable development strategy in the West Midlands was based upon the development of a consensus among different regional interest groups. Crucially, this consensus was based upon different economic, social, and environmental groups recognising that their collective interests were all met through a carefully constructed moral discourse of sustainable development. The construction of the moral vision, or rhetoric of sustainable development which was described at the beginning of this paper, was consequently vital for enabling different groups in the West Midlands to work together, and in the realization of important forms of collective power through which the region could be shaped.” (253)

…and rhetoric/framing/construct of sustainable development stretched scale for decision making from region to globe and engaged everyone from individual to jurisdiction and corporation
ETHAN’S BIBLIOGRAPHY OBSERVATIONS:

- regions here to stay… make too much sense to fade away, region/section tension and region/locality/state tension both exist because regions descriptive of human experience, if not human institutions
- language re reasons for regional planning remarkably stable over the last 80+ years
- regional boundaries as a huge conceptual problem a consistent theme
- regional governance and action a consistent problem
- regional planning as a challenge for facilitation, boundary crossing, etc. a consistent theme since 30s
- city planning a narrow exercise shaped mostly by interests of those responsible for/in control of boundaries and what happens inside… regional planning about lived experience/flows/relationships … that said, technical aspects of planning identical as is role for planning